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SOUTHERN CONE LEFTWING ORGANIZATIONS MEET

FL242135 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1936 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Cuernavaca, Mexico, 24 Mar (NOTIMEX) — Argentine, Bolivian, Chilean, Peruvian and Uruguayan leftwing organizations have emphasized that a commitment to unity from all democratic forces and respect for sovereignty are the appropriate means for the firming up of Latin American freedom movements.

At the regional meeting which is taking place here this week, the representatives of these organizations undertook a commitment to keep close contact among all democratic, popular and revolutionary political forces of the Southern Cone of the continent.

They stated their support for the overall political solutions proposed by President Jose Lopez Portillo, the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR), and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front of El Salvador (FMLN) and condemned the Argentine, Bolivian, Chilean, Paraguayan and Uruguayan dictatorships.

The leftwing organizations denounced the violations of human rights and economic and moral corruption prevailing among forces of the extreme right which have set up the current strongarm regimes.

The meeting is being attended by Eduardo Firmenich of the [Argentine] Peronist Montonero movement; Anselmo Sule, deputy chairman of the Socialist International; Alfonso Barrantes of the Peruvian Leftist Union; and Felix Rospigliosi, executive secretary of the Bolivian National Revolutionary Movement of the Left, among others.

BRIEFS

OAS GEORAPHY CONGRESS -- The 12th general assembly of the Panamerican Institute of Geography, an OAS organization, will be held in the Diego Portales building from 22 March to 3 April 1982 [Santiago Chile LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 7 Mar 82 p 16 PY]

LAIA, INDUSTRIALISTS ACCORDS — Montevideo, 16 Mar (TELAM) -- Today Julio Cesar Shupp, president of the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) and Alberto Vallarino, head of the Latin American Industrialists' Association [Asociacion de Industriales Latino Americanos — AILA] signed a cooperation agreement between these two organizations. The agreement provides for the carrying out of joint studies and projects aimed at promoting trade exchange between the member-countries of the two organizations. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0005 GMT 17 Mar 82 PY]

EXPANDED SEA 82 MANEUVERS -- Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (NA) -- The third stage of the "Expanded Sea 82" joint maneuvers for the defense of the maritime traffic in the south Atlantic began today. The operation has been organized by the Organization for the Defense of Maritime Traffic and it is aimed at training civilian shipowners how to operate merchant ships in times of war. The countries that are participating in the maneuvers are: Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, the United States, Canada, Great Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2252 GMT 19 Mar 82 PY]

INFORMATION EXCHANGE AGREEMENT -- Porto Alegre, 18 Mar (TELAM) -- Marco Antonio Kraemer, chairman of the Brazilian News Agency (EBN), reported here today that the EBN will sign an agreement this year on exchanging information with the Argentine News Agency TELAM. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2140 GMT 18 Mar 82 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTRY ON INCIDENT ON GEORGIA ISLANDS

PY242315 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (TELAM) -- The Foreign Ministry today released further details about the disembarcation of a group of persons from an Argentine private company on Saint Peter Island in the South Georgia Islands.

The text of the report reads as follows: In mid 1978 an Argentine businessman, residing in Buenos Aires Province, made contact with the company Cristian Salvesen, Limited, with legal residence at 50 East Fettes Avenue, Edinburgh, Scotland, for the purchase of materials from the abandoned whaling stations existing on Saint Peter Island in the South Georgia Islands. In November 1978 this person went to Port Stanley to hold a meeting with the governor, but was received by the chief secretary, to whom he explained his commercial objectives.

Later, toward the end of 1978, he was informed from London that the installations requested by him would be sold to him. Upon fulfilling several formal requirements essential for the negotiation, the businessman left aboard the ship A.R.A. Almirante Irizar in December 1981 and inspected the whaling installations.

Recently, the group of 43 persons, the materials for logistic support and for the realization of the project -- a total of 80 tons -- were taken abroad the A.R.A. Bahia Buen Suceso, a ship which belongs to the South Coast Naval Transport Line.

On its routine trip to the southern ports with 2,300 tons of cargo, the ship left Buenos Aires on 11 March at midnight for the first port on Saint Peter Island in the South Georgia Islands. It arrived at Saint Peter Island on 18 March at 0900. The personnel and cargo of the group disembarked and the ship left at 1400 on 21 March for other ports. The South Coast Line usually makes the trip clockwise, that is, arriving first in the ports to the east of the continent -- as when it goes to the Malvinas Islands -- and then to the coastal ports, beginning with Ushuaia.

It is important also to note that the population of the Malvinas and of other islands in the south Atlantic islands are supplied with the necessary food from these trips.

British Patrol Boat

PY241801 Paris AFP in Spanish 1519 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpts] London, 24 Mar (AFP) -- The Foreign Office today reported that an Antarctic patrol boat of the British Navy, Endurance, is sailing near the South Georgia Islands which is part of the Malvinas Islands, where a group of Argentines illegaly went ashore. According to a report not officially confirmed the boat which reportedly has Royal Marines aboard, could arrive at the South Georgia islands today to convince the Argentines to leave the island. The Argentine Government assured that it has no responsibility in this matter.

A spokesman of the Foreign Office said in London today that the government was preparing measures to insure that the Argentines who are reportedly still on the island would leave immediately.

He refused to say what role which the Endurance may play in this situation. He said: "I do not want to speculate on how they (the Argentines) are going to leave. He pointed out that the important thing is that they leave.

UK Envoy at Foreign Ministry

PY250113 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2322 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (TELAM) -- British Ambassador Anthony Williams, who went to the Foreign Ministry tonight for the fourth time in the last 48 hours, because of the events at Port Stanley and in the South Georgia Islands, stated when leaving San Martin Palace that he had been summoned by the foreign minister. We have agreed to continue with the matter and we will have further talks in the next few days, the diplomat added after a dialogue of somewhat over 1/2 hour with Nicanor Costa Mendez. Asked about the British ship Endurance and whether it was sailing to the Georgia Islands region, Williams replied: As a matter of fact, I could not tell you, I don't know.

Formal Complaint

PY240221 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0050 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (NA) -- It was learned tonight from well-informed sources that British Ambassador Anthony Williams handed Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez a formal complaint from his government regarding the continued existence of the state airlines (LADE) office at Puerto Soledad in the Malvinas Islands. The sources said that the complaint of the British Government is being analyzed at the highest Argentine Foreign Ministry level with the participation of foreign policy specialists Mario Amadeo and Bonifacio Viale del Carril.

Williams made the formal British protest at the meeting he had this afternoon with Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez, the third meeting which the British diplomat had with Foreign Ministry officials during the day.

The first of the meetings was held at mid-morning, when Williams was received by Argentine Vice Foreign Minister Enrique Ros, since Costa Mendez had gone to the meeting of the junta of commanders in chief. On that occasion, the Foreign Ministry reported tonight, the ambassador was asked for a "report on the events at the LADE office at Puerto Soledad, and if those events were confirmed, the punishment of those responsible for them was demanded of him."

Later on, about noon, Williams again went to San Martin Palace where he was received by Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez to discuss the situation caused by the incident at the South Georgia Islands, "a territory over which Argentina has well-founded rights of sovereignty," according to the official report. In conclusion, the British diplomat had another meeting in the afternoon with Costa Mendez requesting the withdrawal of the LADE offices from the Malvinas Archipelago, the sources said. When he left the Foreign Ministry, Williams stated to the newsmen that there had been "further discussion of the subject of which you know and about which I cannot make any further statement."

UK Embassy Rectifies Report

PY250209 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0005 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (TELAM) -- The British Embassy in this capital released a note today reporting on the events that occurred at Port Stanley, Malvinas Islands, causing damage to an office of the state airlines (LADE).

It says that in view of the inaccurate commentaries which have appeared in the press and while police investigations continue on what occurred at the small LADE office at Port Stanley last weekend, the British Embassy wishes to clearly state that: A. There was no attack against the LADE office at Port Stanley by mobs; B. No LADE official or any Argentine citizen was attacked; C. The Argentine flag has not been put up in front of the LADE office and could therefore not have been taken down; D. No slogans were written on any Argentine flag. Another note released by the embassy at the same time as the former says that the reports that British Ambassador Anthony Williams asked for the closing of the LADE office at Port Stanley during his visit to the Foreign Ministry yesterday are inaccurate and totally groundless.

MILITARY JUNTA ISSUES MESSAGE ON COUP ANNIVERSARY

FY241715 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1310 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text of junta message marking 6th anniversary of the coup d'etat, read by the secretary general of the navy, Rear Adm Joaquin Hipolito Leandro Gomez, at the Stella Maris church in Buenos Aires -- live]

[Text] Once again the anniversary of the process of national reorganization makes us recall its principles, which have been outlined in basic documents and among the grassroots of the people and which define the task that was undertaken by the armed forces in circumstances that were so critical for the nation.

The people were not only inspired, but they also reasserted our nation's inalienable historic principles, our national objectives and the political morality that were established in the country under the constitution.

These objectives entailed limitations, but these did not imply denying spontaneous, legitimate and proper expressions by society.

To this effect, the principles entail progressive normalization of the institutions and organizations whose activities were temporarily restricted, in order that they may find their full identity in a restored and responsible political sector.

The armed forces understand just as well as the civilian sector that the right to disagree is the basic principle of a democracy, which is a characteristic of the republic. However, the armed forces stress that this right has limits that, if surpassed, will hinder the legitimate exchange of opinions in public affairs.

Efficient answers approved by all of society to the problems that persist in the country continue to be the wish of all of us. However, these answers need to be consistent with the feelings, creative power, yearnings and the spontaneous and legitimate ambitions of all the Argentine people, in order that we may achieve the common objective, harmoniously united in work and in the civic virtues that have been freely established.

We view these virtues as a primary condition for understanding the way in which the state is managed with justice, reason and with up-to-date knowledge, as well as to feel the needs of our neighbours as if they were our own, and to appreciate the satisfaction brought about by the fulfillment of a duty. All this will be achieved through the administration of social justice, an enterprising spirit, the recognition of merits and of worthwhile struggles and through the preservation of the heritage of the nation itself.

The duty of every state that intends to assume the role of a modern nation, molding a community of interests with those legal principles that insure its existence in time and space, has been and continues to be this government's attitude in the process for national reorganization.

This attitude comes from a realistic basis that nourishes itself mainly from what our history teaches us, devoid of any utopianism.

The events which took place in our immediate past, especially in the decade of the seventies, have been a harsh experience that the Argentine people and the armed forces had to endure and face in all its ramifications. Anyone who tries to demean the sacrifices made or to distort the ethic and moral values that have been defended will have to inexorably face the judgment of God and of history.

In view of all this, we believe that understanding the present means to face the realities of yesterday and to visualize our future goals.

Various circumstances have prevented achieving some of the objectives of the process for now. The armed forces are aware, as they have always been, of the historical responsibility that implicitly hangs on every act of government, and they admit the fallibility of their actions from the standpoint of the human dimension of men who exercise power.

During the current stage of the process, an economic policy aimed at finding basic solutions has been implemented. We are aware of the seriousness of some sectorial and individual problems within the framework of the general economic situation and we know that there are no miraculous solutions capable of resolving all the problems at the same time. Nevertheless we intend to make prudent progress in the solution of these problems by trying not to create -- through measures of short-lived effectiveness -- new imbalances affecting the recovery process currently in force.

The military junta -- aware of the commitment assured by the armed forces when it took over the leadership of the state in March 1976 and faithful to the objective of installing a republican, representative, federal and stable democracy -- wishes, at this stage of the process of striving toward the full political and institutional normalization of the republic, to report the following to the population:

1. That the political parties statute will be approved in mid-1982.

2. That as of that date, the reorganization and renewal of provincial and national political parties will begin under the inspection and control of an Electoral Court endowed with sufficient power and attributes to fully carry out its tasks.

3. That once a system of renewed provincial and national parties has been established, important actions will be taken beginning with an in-depth dialogue with the officials emerging from the new legal reorganizations in search of an agreement aimed at finding a way of putting into effect the gradual and progressive transition to democracy.

4. That this transition must be safeguarded from all hazards and carried out through a firm and gradual process for the fulfillment of the successive objectives, an objective which will basically require the responsible participation of the political forces.

We are convinced that in response to general and not merely sectorial interests we will set the future of the nation back on its course in which every Argentine by fulfilling his duties will exalt what God has given us: a fatherland which wants not only to be in the world, but aspires to be recognized by the world. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to understand that this is a task of the entire Argentine society.

The armed forces -- in defense of this society as the permanent protector of national sovereignty -- is permanently watchful and united by common ideals and undeniable objectives and firmly ready to develop all the necessary actions leading to such high objectives. Let us pray to God that this expression of patriotic desires -- in this stage of the process of national reorganization -- will be received with faith by the people as a first stage in the republican process: the people's participation in the leadership of the republic once again.

PARTIES MERGE TO FORM CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

PY241234 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 23 Mar 82 p 11

[Text] (NA) -- The Revolutionary Christian and Popular Christian Parties officialized their merger at the Electoral Court of Judge Eduardo F. Marquardt yesterday, becoming the Christian Democratic Party. Party leaders Martin Dip and Enrique de Vedia appeared in court yesterday to formalize the proceeding, although the parties will not legally be merged until the political ban is lifted by the military government. Francisco Cerro is the president of the new party. Its secretaries-general are Carlos Auyero, Martin Dip and Hugo Conza. Other party officials include Augusto Conte and Guillermo Frugoni Rey.

POLITICIANS PRAISE SIEGE LIFTING PLANS

PY241240 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 23 Mar 82 p 11

[Text] (DYN) -- Political party leaders yesterday hailed the news of a possible lifting of the state of siege and suggested a few more measures for the government to consider. "This is very laudable," said Justicialist Party Vice President Deolindo Bittel, adding, "the political ban and law 21,323 better be lifted too."

Interior Minister Alfredo Saint Jean was quoted in yesterday's LA NACION as saying that "little by little" conditions seem to be favoring elimination of the state of siege, which was imposed during the government of former President Isabel Peron.

Radical Party President Carlos Contin greeted the hints from Saint Jean as "good news. We can't speak pejoratively of the armed forces (in light of this), although all of us know that the government has been a disaster; particularly its economic policies."

Movement for Integration and Development Vice President Americo Garcia called the news "well received, but the rest of the obstacles blocking the democratic process must be lifted rapidly."

Oscar Alende, head of the Intransigent Party, seemed more skeptical of Saint Jean's statements. While he said he welcomed them, he also observed that "with de facto authorities one must pay greater attention to deeds rather than words."

DETAILS OF PERONIST INTERFERENCE ON TV STATION

PY241559 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1148 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (NA) -- The state television station Argentina Televisora Color (ATC) last night had its broadcast interfered with. The interference was observed in Olivos, north of greater Buenos Aires, and in the city of La Plata, 60 km south of this capital. The march "Los Muchachos Peronistas" was heard during the interference along with the voice of a person who claimed to be the terrorist Mario Firmenich and who read a proclamation severely critical of the military government. The interference lasted 18 minutes in the city of La Plata. According to the announcer, the alleged "leader of the Peronist Montonero Movement" spoke for almost 10 minutes and then another man made a call supporting the mobilization called for by the General Labor Confederation on 30 March at Plaza de Mayo.

CABINET ENDS 12-HOUR MEETING; ACTIONS DISCLOSED

PY250110 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Report from Government Palace]

[Excerpt] The cabinet meeting ended this evening after 12 hours' discussion of various aspects of the national economic crisis and the emergency in eastern Bolivia caused by the recent rains. The cabinet has adopted the following measures:

It approved Supreme Decree No 18,891, Article 1, by which a national emergency is declared as a consequence of the serious floods in various departments. To attend to the people's needs and to the recovery of the affected areas, the mobilization of government, military and police forces will be intensified. These forces, with the cooperation of organizations of the private sector, charity organizations and international organizations, will grant the necessary help required by the National Emergency Commission, which has been created for this purpose. The Foreign Affairs and Religion Ministry will be in charge of requesting international cooperation to face the natural disasters, and at the same time to avoid further consequences. At the same time, it will be in charge of inviting representatives of international organizations to join the National Emergency Commission.

In the economic field, the cabinet has lifted subsidies on sugar, national milk production and [words indistinct]. According to a report by the foreign minister, the cabinet decided to accept a $28-million loan offered by the Japanese Government for restoration of the railway line between Tapera and Robore.

Juan Carlos Duran, official spokesman of the cabinet, also reported that the strike in Tarija Department has been lifted, according to telephone reports, after talks with the civilian organizations which promoted this strike 2 days ago.

We must also report that the Central Bank has adopted a number of measures, which will be explained during a press conference tomorrow at 1700 by the finance minister.

AIRPORT FACILITIES DAMAGED BY STRIKE SABOTAGE

PY242309 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpts] The facilities of El Alto international airport were damaged today by members of the Auxiliary Air Navigation Services Administration, AASANA, union. This was reported by Maj (Waldo Rebollo Lopez), manager of the airport, who revealed that the sabotage affected the transmission equipment, the beacons and rescue services of the airport system.

The employees, who started their strike 24 hours ago, also decided to damage the navigational aid equipment which the airport has for commercial flights which operate through that airport.

(Waldo Rebollo) stated that the Aeronautics Ministry has taken control of El Alto airport and hopes to solve the problems which have arisen there.

FOREIGN MINISTER ENDS TALKS IN BEIJING

FY242342 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] In Beijing, capital of the PRC, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro and PRC Foreign Minister Huang Hua this morning held their second and last work meeting, which lasted for more than 2 hours.

The PRC foreign minister briefed his Brazilian counterpart on the guiding principles of the PRC foreign policy, citing examples in the face of specific current situations which are taking place within the international framework.

After the meeting, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro told Octavio Bonfim, of the Brazilian News Agency, that many nebulous points of the PRC foreign policy had been clarified at the meeting.

Commenting on bilateral relations, Saraiva added that Huang Hua had not left any doubts as to the PRC officials' desire to further these relations.

The Brazilian foreign minister's official visit to the PRC capital will conclude tomorrow when he will be received in separate audiences by Deng Xiaoping, vice chairman of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, and Zhao Ziyang, the PRC premier.

Despite not holding an official post in the pRC government, Deng Xiaoping is the main PRC political leader and his granting an audience to the Brazilian foreign minister is viewed as a special deference.

SAO PAULO CIVIL SERVANTS STRIKE CONTINUES

PY241358 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpt] The strike by municipal and state civil servants in Sao Paulo continues in a state of confusion during its second day. The stike is mostly being felt at the Hospital das Clinicas. To make the situation more difficult, the Legislative Assembly did not like the state government's proposal on salary readjustments for civil servants. Reporter Claudio Mexias provides this information:

[Begin Mexias recording] The proposal on salary readjustments was returned yesterday to the technical committees of the Legislative Assembly. It was not voted on on the floor because the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] and the PT [Workers Party] introduced amendments to the proposal. A civil servants delegation contacted Legislative Assembly President Januario Netto to postpone voting until today, in a special session. The proposal was returned to the technical committees to oblige the requests of civil servant leaders, who intend to mobilize the largest possible number of civil servants to attend the voting. [end recording]

Senator Orestes Quercia, PMDB of Sao Paulo, has said that he favors a salary readjustment of 140 percent as requested by the public servants, adding that the statement by state Governor Maluf was intolerable, that he does not worry about accusations that, under the law governing public functionaries, he is fomenting civil servants' into disobedience.

Yesterday afternoon Governor Paulo Maluf signed a decree granting a 40 percent increase beginning next month. The governor acted in view of the assemblymen's delay in approving the bill which has been submitted to the legislative assembly. Only functionaries of the Nuclear and Energy Research Institute of the University of Sao Paulo ceased striking.

TURBAY WELCOMES ECUADOREAN PRESIDENT HURTADO

PA242026 Paris AFP in Spanish 1929 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota, 24 Mar (AFP) -- Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado was received today by Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala at Bogota's military airport at the outset of his official 3-day visit to Colombia.

Hurtado, who arrived from Caracas, where he met with Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, will meet with Turbay Ayala at 2130 at Narino Palace, which houses the Colombian Government. The meeting will be attended by the two countries' foreign ministers.

Hurtado's visit had been suspended on two previous occasions. This visit will serve to strengthen Colombian-Ecuadorean relations and establish the policies the two nations will follow in regard to the economic integration process outlined by the Andean Pact, to which Ecuador and Colombia, along with Bolivia, Peru and Venezuela, belong.

Turbay Ayala and Hurtado have not yet signed a treaty dealing with illegal immigrants along the common border. However, on Friday, a short while before Hurtado's return to Quito, the two presidents will issue a joint declaration.

During receptions the two presidents will hold for each other today and tomorrow, Hurtado and Turbay Ayala will each make two speeches.

FOREIGN MINISTER BACKS AREA DISARMAMENT CONCEPT

PA241736 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0434 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota, 23 Mar (EFE) -- The Colombian Government said today that the Honduran proposal on disarmament in Central America and the Caribbean "is good as long as it is adopted by all nations."

Foreign Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds said that "any proposal that helps pacify Central America, where the scene is becoming increasingly critical and agitated, is welcome."

"Disarmament must come from both sides naturally, for it would be unworkable if only one side speaks of it while the other actually does something about it. This situation could be used by those who want to create problems in the area."

Regarding a Cuban proposal that the United States withdraw its military and economic presence in the Caribbean, Lemos Simmonds stressed that first "it would be important" to confirm the U.S. military presence in the region. "Even if this presence is confirmed, those who are meddling in other countries' internal affairs by fomenting armed movements should also withdraw."

Lemos Simmonds would not comment on today's military coup in Guatemala, saying only that he would make an official statement after reports from the Colombian Embassy in Guatemala are received.

COMMUNIST PARTY HEAD RENE MAUGE INTERVIEWED

AU231844 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 19 Mar 82 p 3

[Csaba Nagy article: "Together With the Progressive Forces, To Defend Democratic Achievements; Interview With the Secretary General of the Ecuadorean Communist Party"]

[Text] At the invitation of the MSZMP Central Committee, a delegation of the Ecuadorean Communist Party visited Hungary from 15 to 18 March. It was led by Rene Mauge, secretary general of the Ecuadorean Communist Party, who granted an interview to Csaba Nagy, a member of our paper's staff.

[Question] The Ecuadorean Communist Party held its 10th congress last November. How did the congress appraise the country's political and economic position?

[Answer] The 10th congress drew up the balance sheet of the economic, social and political changes of the last 10 years. During this period, an accelerated capitalist development took place amid an intensification of dependence on the international monopolies and a continuation of backward forms of economic activity in Ecuador. That development failed to improve the living conditions of the working masses. The fact that exploitation of vast oilfields began at the beginning of the seventies in the eastern part of the country played a decisive role in growth. Through it, state income and foreign currency revenues have skyrocketed. Their rational use could have fostered the country's industrialization, development of the state sector, implementation of a land reform and the solution of a number of urgent social problems. All that could have changed the social atmosphere of society. However, the majority of the leaders of the then military administration directed credits and subsidies to the private sector and furthered the activity of foreign capital in the country. Therefore, Ecuador's external debt rapidly increased despite the growth of foreign currency reserves.

Of course, the economic changes have brought about certain social and political transformations as well. Industrial development has greatly facilitated the increase in numbers of the worker class and, owing to a gradual disintegration of feudal conditions in rural areas, vast masses of the peasantry have flocked to the cities, which has resulted in growing unemployment. Consequently, social tension has deepened and the class struggle is increasingly expanding in the country. All that is now being intensified by a decline of oil revenues and a shortfall in agricultural production. Despite all this, the administration of Ecuador has decided to increase armaments, which deprives the population of the material resources needed to resolve pressing social problems.

[Question] What was the significance of the congress from the viewpoint of party activity?

[Answer] I will begin my reply mentioning the problems. In past years, we made several tactical mistakes and certain people even violated internal party democracy. Of course, these mistakes could not fail to make an impact on the disposition of party members and they weakened the party's strength. We have set the goal of correcting the mistakes, with particular regard to developing the democracy of party life. The congress has brought the victory of a guideline that enables us to establish even more direct relations with the masses as well as a tactical alliance with the rest of the progressive forces. The newly elected Central Committee and Politburo can ensure our party's political and organizational unity. Our party struggles to create an administration that pursues national democratic principles.

[Question] What characterizes the present foreign policy of the Ecuadorean Government?

[Answer] Jaime Roldos Aguilera, who took office in August 1979 and lost his life in an aircraft accident last year, pursued a progressive foreign policy. Ecuador has established diplomatic relations with socialist Cuba, supported the popular movements struggling with the liberation of Nicaragua and El Salvador, and condemned the South American fascist military regimes. However, tensions arose between Washington and Quito with the coming of the Reagan administration to power because, in quite a few respects, President Roldos' foreign policy ran counter to U.S. plans. There is no doubt that the U.S. Government also played a significant role in the conflict that broke out on the border of Ecuador and Peru last January.

Yielding to U.S. pressure, the present government led by Oswaldo Hurtado has deviated from the previous independent foreign policy; a certain conformity to Washington is perceptible.

[Question] The United States has intensified plans against the countries and liberation movements of Latin America. What is your appraisal of the situation that has developed in the area?

[Answer] The policy of U.S. imperialism is unequivocally directed at obtaining an opportunity for direct or indirect intervention in Central America. It is recruiting allies for its nefarious plans: It is exerting pressure to induce Ecuador to also support its adventurous plans. However, our government has declared that it does not intend to send a single soldier to Central America.

[Question] How do you appraise your talks in Hungary?

[Answer] Part of the purpose of our visit was to tighten our relations with the MSZMP and acquaint the Hungarian comrades with our party's position following the 10th congress. In the talks with Comrade Kadar, we exchanged views on current problems of the international communist movement and the Central American situation. I can say that we have obtained very pleasant impressions in your country.

PRESIDENT DELIVERS STATE OF NATION ADDRESS

PA122015 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 1522 GMT 11 Mar 82

[State of the nation speech by Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins to the Venezuelan Congress -- live]

[Excerpts] President of the Congress, vice president of the Congress, president and magistrates of the Supreme Court, president and members of the Supreme Electoral Council, president and members of the Judiciary Branch, former President and Lifetime Senator Rafael Caldera, former President of the Government Junta Vice Adm Wolfgang Larrazabal, ministers and members of the Executive Cabinet, comptroller of the republic, attorney general of the republic, district attorney of the republic, ambassadors and charges d'affaires of friendly countries, members of the high military command, president of the municipal councils of the Federal District and Sucre District of Miranda State, his excellency Msgr Jose Luis Lebrun, archbishop of Caracas, most excellent and reverend monsignors, auxiliary bishops of Caracas, rectors of the national universities, president and directors of the national academies, president of the Bolivarian Society of Venezuela, president of the autonomous institutes and state enterprises, senators, deputies, ladies and gentlemen:

The news dissemination service has continued to be an effective means of disseminating state informative policy, both within and outside the country, especially for the democratization of information. For this purpose we have available a total of eight agencies throughout the nation -- in Maracaibo, Barquisimeto, San Cristobal, Ciudad Guayana, Maiquetia, Merida, Valencia and Porlamar.

Without neglecting the continued progress of Radio Nacional and its increasing coverage, we have granted maximum priority to the infrastructural project for the Voice of Venezuela, the super station whose operation is planned for the second half of 1982.

The government has guaranteed the workers full exercise of their rights of organization, unionization, and collective bargaining and respects the autonomy of the associations, without meddling in aspects strictly of the responsibility of the unions. In 1981 there were 426 labor unions, with 25,029 affiliated workers. We are satisfied with this number, although we know that a greater effort on unionization must be made to strengthen the power of the workers in a democracy of participation, whose bases of legality and awareness we strive to leave as the legacy of these years of government. [applause]

To support our policy of security and defense aimed at protecting our borders, we have ordered coordination among institutions for those remote regions. We must make mention of the agreements between the governorship of the Amazon region and the Venezuelan Air Force, who provide medical, dental and paramedical personnel who visit the remote communities of our territory several times a month and watch over the health of the Indian inhabitants there.

This government's concern for the situation of public order has been one of its characteristics, within difficult circumstances characterized by criminal actions of varied nature. These efforts to guarantee the public peace of the citizens were coordinated by the Interior Ministry and the various police coordination organizations. In 1981 five regional police schools were operating and 144 officers and 1,756 men joined the ranks of the police organizations. We must note that to give the police more capacity, the former police training center was given the status of a university institute. In the five regional police schools, life and health insurance was established for the alumni. The (?million) operation has maintained its anticriminal continuity. The people have accepted it well, despite the momentary inconveniences they may have suffered, because they value the government's effort in its anticrime struggle and prefer to be searched by the police, a thousand times, even with their arms up for a few seconds, rather than have this done by a criminal who robs and even kills them. [applause]

Another office which we must mention because of the lofty spirit and sense of responsibility with which it has acted at all times, especially in the cases of flooding and collective tragedies, is the civil defense. The premature and prolonged rains which fell throughout the year prompted intense actions and mobilization of more than 30 and 5,000 [as heard] persons. The control of foreigners has been another relevant activity, above all regarding the legalization of those who heeded the call to register in the general list of foreigners. More than 270,000 persons registered their stay in the country.

The struggle against contraband and drug trafficking has continued. The training center of the commission against improper use of drugs trains personnel to work in this field. Because of its experience and technical capacity, that center was chosen as the center of the South American region in preventive education for 1981. It has the best qualified personnel and an active policy of cooperation with the judicial technical police is followed. Some 70,330 cases were resolved during the year. In other words, it registered a 55.5 percent rate of effectiveness in relation to the cases presented. This rate is an increase of 5.6 percent compared to 1980.

The national armed forces, faithful to their institutional spirit, and which have contributed greatly to the consolidation of our democratic process since 1958, have been excelling and working with dedication and patriotism in the tasks charged to them. They have increased the operational capacity of the surface forces, increasing our naval power in 1981, with the incorporation of the missile frigates Mariscal Sucre, Mariscal (Gurion), Rafael Urdaneta, and General Carlos (Zulep) arriving in March 1982. At present we are negotiating, without conditions harmful to our dignity as a free and sovereign country, the acquisition of the modern, sophisticated aircraft 13-16-100 [as heard], whose purchase has been studied from two angles -- the financial resources available and the human resources capable of operating those planes. The armed forces of national cooperation [FAC] have increased their presence throughout the country with new installations and units, both ground as well as naval, and with an aeronautical training center in Porlamar. An outstanding event of the year has been the inclusion, for the first time in the history of our planning, of the security and defense sector as an important and individual part of the sixth plan of the nation.

The joint liberator maneuver 1980-81 was a resounding success. I had the opportunity to observe its development three times. Never before has there been such a complete mobilization of the four branches of our national armed forces -- harmonious and disciplined -- despite the difficult terrain.

For the first time, Congress was asked for an additional amount of several hundred million bolivares to take care of civil infrastructural projects and military installations on the southeastern border, the one traditionally most neglected. The army obtained Arava aircraft and installed 13 portable communications centers and a single channel system for units located in El Rastro, Guarico. Two jungle infantry brigades were created, based in Caicare de Orinoco and in Upata, as was the military intelligence department of operations. The Gen (Jose Felix Riba) school for noncommissioned officers was started. The Andres Bello study plan was formulated at the military academy to improve the training of cadets. The maritime zones of Occidente, Centro and Oriente were created, as were the river border zones and the coast guard squadron, which is an operational complement to the squadron dedicated to the tasks of patrolling, search and rescue. The launching of supersonic missiles against mobile air targets was very successful, as was the firing of an (Otomab) missile in our territorial waters. In Caracas, the navy organized the third special naval conference on sanitation.

It signed an agreement with Lagoven [a Petroven subsidiary] for geographic studies, which will permit the establishment of an oil shipment terminal in the vicinity of (Arupano). An agreement was signed with Corpozulia for the development of the upper Guajira region, to guarantee the security of the region and of the installations in Castilletes, and to give educational support to the indigenous population and to carry out technical research in the important lagoon of (Cojinet).

Air bases were created: the Gen Jose Antonio Paez Base in Puerto Ayacucho, the Col Luis Apolinar Mendez Base and the Luis Caceres Arismendi Base in the low eastern and insular regions of the country, respectively. FAC carried out tasks in support of the national administration, particularly in maintaining public order, guarding industrial installations, guarding border regions and fighting against contraband. The FAC Coast Guard command was created. The Simon Rodriguez draft program for training mid-level technicians to obtain degrees in public administration was also begun.

On oil matters, our main objective is to expand the nationalization of the oil industry, an idea unanimously endorsed by Venezuelans. We have acted in very difficult world circumstances due to the oil glut and to the critical economic situation, characterized everywhere by adjustment and readjustment.

Investments in explorations increased. Some 2.3 billion barrels of oil were discovered, of which 1.54 billion were crude and 266 million were gas. To this we must add the activity and efforts to make Venezuela a world center for heavy crude oil, a goal we established at the beginning of the present decade. With the coordination of the Venezuelan Institute of Petroleum Technology, INTEVEP, we have signed contracts to face the challenge of achieving appropriate technology for the production, transportation and refinement of heavy crude along with related tasks.

For this purpose, a qualified world conference was held in the past few weeks in Caracas. Work has continued to retool the refineries in El Palito and Amua, to meet the increasing national demand for gasoline and to develop greater operational flexibility in processing heavier crude, with a production of residual [word indistinct]. Plans have been made to install a lubricant mixing plant in the Caroven refinery and to improve other national refineries. At a cost of $1,859 million the retooling of the refinement process at El Palito was completed and we are completing the process to begin the operation of new plants. The retooling of the refinement process at Amuay has already been half completed. We expect it to begin operating around the second semester of 1982. The construction of the plant for mixing and canning coal lubricants is 75 percent finished and should be completed in mid-1982. With this, we hope to resolve the Venezuelan lubricants situation until 1983, when a new plant will have to begin operation to satisy demands. It will probably be built in Puerto La Cruz.

As for as production is concerned we intend to increase daily production, as quickly as possible, to 2.8 million barrels. In1982 we plan to drill 1,122 wells of high productivity.

For the first time in our petrochemical history we expect to achieve a financial balance in 1982.

Venezuela continues to act with a broad sense of understanding, unity and solidarity within OPEC and it demands similar conduct from the other members of that organization. We will be present at the next consultative meeting on 19 March, from which a clearer vision of oil's short- and long-term international prospects should emerge. This is an essential step in adopting definitive measures for our national oil production.

Mexico and we maintain the energy cooperation program for Central America and the Caribbean, which is increasingly gaining the reputation of real cooperation in achieving the diversified development of the countries that benefit. We continue to work within the OLADE -- its General Secretariat has been assigned to our compatriot (Jose Ramirez) -- and we are trying to organize the first Latin American multinational oil enterprise with Pemex, Petrobras and Petroven.

The 1981 results can be regarded as satisfactory -- objectively comparing them to those of the industrialized economies and considering the domestic difficulties that had to be overcome. The prospects for 1982, however, must be defined within the framework of an oil economy with high surplus absorption -- such as Venezuela's when it reflects, as in this first part of the year, a certain weakening of the world oil market. This must be reflected in Venezuela's finances, forcing us to implement a rational and decidedly austere fiscal policy and in the operation of the decentralized institutions.

Since the public and private sectors have objective bases that can compensate for a possible imbalance, a budget adjustment that is affected by the declining oil revenues should not lead to a decline in real economic activity during 1982 nor to a compromise in the fulfillment of the central goal, which is the continued reduction of the inflation rate.

Venezuela's foreign policy continues to be centrally guided by the search for genuine and stable peace that allows men throughout the world to develop their creative potential in order to be progressive coparticipants in a climate of freedom essential to living with dignity, with the full guarantee of respect for human rights and the full enjoyment of peace.

Venezuela is among the 30 or so countries that can be called democratic without euphemisms, exaggeration or effort. It is among those countries seeking a new international order that, to be sincere, must demonstrate attitudes and realities that do not contradict the various countries' domestic realities and attitudes.

Three first-rate events connected with the search for a new international economic order occurred in 1981. The Group of 77 high-level conference met in Caraballeda in May. It closed one phase and opened a new one by implementing cooperation among developing countries. After considering the advantages of economic cooperation it permitted the emergence of a program that identified the areas of trade, technology, food, agriculture, energy, raw materials, finances, industrialization and technical cooperation as topics for an agreement among the southern countries prior to their dialogue with the northern countries. The most important conclusion of this meeting, however, was the establishment of suitable mechanisms for coordination, continuation and subsequent evaluation in order to effectively implement the action program agreed upon. In other words, this means that without having to form a new international organization, the meetings of southern countries will no longer be occasional or lack continuity because the mechanisms for continuity -- which will be rotational in the coordination among the three developing continents -- will make it possible to review and evaluate the various plans and conclusions reached at each meeting.

Venezuela also accepted the invitation to participate in the so-called Nassau group when the foreign ministers of Canada, Mexico and the U.S. secretary of state met on 11 July. Venezuela again ratified its permanent willingness to contribute to the cooperation and integration among the subregional countries through participation in a joint agreement that favors the accelerated development of the Caribbean Basin.

We stated at this forum that cooperation cannot take place only through private trade and investments. In this regard there have been painful experiences in many parts of our hemisphere. Venezuela stated that public investment was necessary because we believe cooperation is a combination of various public resources that are contributed with development as its end.

I am convinced our position influenced President Ronald Reagan's position outlined in his recent speech on aid for the Central American and Caribbean countries.

In October 1981 I have the honor of attending the summit conference of leaders of industrialized and developing countries that was held in Cancun, Mexico. It was undoubtedly a significant event. That meeting brought together the largest number of leaders in the history of the world in order to seek common goals -- in this case the establishment of a new international economic order through UN-sponsored worldwide North-South negotiations.

We interpreted this invitation as a recognition of the seriousness of our foreign policy and attributed it to our country's increasing international importance.

We have sought to maintain in the Central American and Caribbean area permanent exchange with important political individuals, without ideological discrimination, because our interests lie with the area's democratic and pluralistic development. Thus, I will now refer to the invitations extended to Foreign Ministers Bernd Niehaus of Costa Rica, Fidel Chavez of El Salvador and Eliseo Perez Cadalso of Honduras; Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge; Honduran President Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia; and the Costa Rican presidential candidates. Of the latter, the first to come was Luis Alberto Monge, who became his country's president-elect in February 1982. Former President Mario Echandi and Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier visited us later.

We have always defended peaceful mechanisms and expressed our opposition to violence. This is why we have been supporting the Salvadoran Government junta in its effort to achieve an institutional and democratic solution, for which the first step will be the election of a constituent assembly. This will make it possible to begin parliamentary and political talks in order to seek formulas to eliminate the country's violence. That violence results from social causes -- insensitive governments that serve covetous and equally insensitive oligarchies and from ultrasubversive interests, so radical that they will suppress any civilian democratic tendency -- that seek to turn Central America into an experimentation camp where the two superpowers confront each other.

We have very clearly outlined our position to Nicaragua, whose recent attacks have been rejected by us with firmness and seriousness. We have said that the friendly hand should not be withdrawn from those people as long as there is the possibility of a pluralistic solution, as promised in the Sandinist revolution's initial project following the victory over the dynastic dictatorship.

We have voiced our opposition to the prospect of internationalizing the Salvadoran conflict. This is why we unequivocally rejected the French-Mexican communique.

These days we are concerned about the dramatic situation in Guatemala, following an electoral process whose results have been objected to by the various political forces that participated.

In April 1981, Guyanese President Linden Forbes Burnham visited Venezuela. I discussed topics of common interest with him, particularly our historical claim over the Essequibo area and our opposition to the construction of the Alto (Masaruni) Dam before the problem is solved. I took advantage of the occasion to tell him, with the full support of the public, that Venezuela would not continue to implement the Port of Spain Protocol after 18 June 1982 in either a de facto or a de jure sense. [applause]

Negotiations with the sister republic of Colombia have practically reached a standstill, due to the electoral campaign there and to the premature development of the electoral campaign here, which do not offer the best climate for reaching an understanding.

Our relations with [words indistinct] have been very intense. Our policy follows paths marked by dignity, gravity and independence. Its orientation is the fruit of our sovereign will, devoid of fears of inferiority or the fear of dissent and of prejudice when coincidences occur. We think that in this manner we defend our interests in the best possible way, within the framework of the broadest possible convenience for our nation. We have stated that we want neither to play along with the superpowers nor to fall into the East-West confrontation. We coincide in the defense of certain principles -- those that, in general, uphold the democratic system.

The beginning of a new administration in the United States imposed on us the need to establish contacts with that country's new authorities. It is within the framework of that policy that one must view the meetings between Foreign Minister Zambrano Velasco and the U.S. secretary of state; the visit to Washington by the ministers of the interior and of the presidency's secretariat; and my own trip to the United States.

In each of our contacts with the U.S. Government, we have insisted on the two principles that constitute the cornerstone of our foreign policy: nonintervention and support for processes leading to the consolidation of democracy and freedom. This has enabled us to establish a direct and sincere dialogue, in which we have noted political coincidences in some positions, even though motivations may differ. In other cases, our positions are divergent.

My talks with President Reagan and with several high-ranking U.S. Government officials have contributed to an analysis that helped to clarify many of the continent's political and social realities, which include factors and elements that we, as Latin Americans, are in a better position to understand. I was listened to respectfully, appreciatively and with unequivocal signs of friendship, as befits the chief of states of an active democracy, intent on projecting values that, although distinctive to the system, are not exclusive to any one country but belong to mankind's spiritual context.

Above all, I have felt that the language of threats should not replace the possibility of dialogue and that the concept of security then ends up being smashed to pieces along with peace.

Venezuela attended the high-level consultative meeting on Latin America-U.S. economic relations that was held in Panama from 23 November to 1 December. The Latin American countries (?showed up) there to define their common strategy of principles in relation to the United States. Venezuela indicated that it was necessary to open and to stress dialogue, because the current juncture means that the economic relations between Latin America and the United States will influence their respective growth in the eighties.

I wish to reiterate to the country my serious and patriotic appeal for national understanding in reaching oil and energy accords, particularly now that the difficulties we are experiencing force us to think and to act in terms of understanding and convergence in meeting our most important national needs.

The difficulties in the international oil market and the need to study their effect on Venezuela's public expenditures and economy prevented us from delivering the foundations for the accord we are proposing, but we will do this in the very near future.

In order to confront a problem, one must be aware of its importance and its [word indistinct]. My government is aware of the problems we face due to the oil market decline, which affects our fiscal revenues.

In preparing the 1982 budget, we reduced estimated oil revenues by almost 10 billion bolivares from the amount obtained in 1981 and we implemented a presidential instruction to reduce operational expenses, particularly those connected with personnel, by 10 percent. Nonetheless, the current oil situation demands additional efforts from us; and we are making them. I have issued specific instructions at all levels of public administration to reduce allocations or budget quotas, to hold down or revise programs and even institutions, in both the centralized and decentralized administrations, seeking wherever possible to reduce operational expenses without affecting the resources designated for investment, or at least affecting them only very slightly. In the next few days I intend to issue a presidential decree reflecting the measures for additional expense reductions that directly concern the executive branch and to notify the country of the austerity initiatives that will involve other state institutions.

I ask everyone to make an effort toward understanding and solidarity. I can answer for what is under my direct and immediate responsibility. In this regard I can assure the Venezuelan people that we are going to cut fiscal spending for 1982 to a level that is between 6.5 and 7 billion bolivares. We are not facing any debacle, but we do face a difficult situation that can be handled and overcome. We must, therefore, keep calm and have trust, knowing that the government feels watchful concern about the problems we face.

Venezuela is experiencing an economic juncture, but it continues to be a unique spot in Latin America economically. We have a growing market; the inflation rate has been reduced; the capacity to import permits guarantees for any new investment; foreign exchange is uncontrolled and the currency is strong; the tax burden is one of the lowest in the continent; there is an important infrastructure and a modern financial system; the working class is essentially mature; there is a democratic system of parties that, even with frictions, permits dialogue and the search for solutions to national problems; it has armed forced that are undergoing modernization and that have a great institutional conscience. These are objective reasons for being optimistic in the face of difficulties and for keeping an open mind toward reasonable suggestions and constructive initiatives.

I must state emphatically that even though the news media has reported the possibility of a currency devaluation as a way of solving the problem of reduced revenues, that possibility is not being planned. We are not going to manipulate the bolivar. We are not going to devalue the bolivar. [applause] The president of the Central Bank of Venezuela has been clear and emphatic in explaining the reasons why monetary parities will be maintained without variation. History has taught us, moreover, that fiscal and economic problems have never been solved through monetary manipulations. If history demonstrates one thing, it is that such manipulations only complicate the problems. I want to be emphatic and definitive in this statement so that there will be an end to the harmful rumors that have been spread, creating panic, disorder and confusion. [applause]

Senators and deputies, before concluding this message, and above and beyond the issue of our current fiscal difficulties, I wish to announce as part of the fulfillment of an electoral promise that in a few days I will include several ladies -- no less than three of them -- in the Executive Cabinet. [applause] This will truly open a new stage of participation in the nation's political life, with the presence of a significant number of women in very high political offices. While Venezuelan women struggle in various parties to attain higher supervisory ranks by right of their merit and capability, this government of participation over which I preside calls upon their abilities, efforts and patriotism, so that they can contribute to the nation's greatness.

Senators and deputies, in presenting you with this third presidential message in accordance with the provisions of the national Constitution, I wish to express my most sincere wishes for the success of your deliberations and for a positive legislative and political performance in this first phase of your ordinary sessions of 1952 [as heard]. May God strengthen our faith in the fatherland and its values and may He enlighten us, so that we may overcome our difficulties through will, optimism, determination and courage, gentlemen. [applause]

CASTANEDA SAYS U.S., NICARAGUAN OFFICIALS TO MEET

PA241838 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1755 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 24 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Mexican Foreign Secretariat announced today that Nicaraguan and U.S. officials will probably meet in Mexico soon to discuss pending issues. In a communique issued today, Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda said Managua and Washington officials will meet in Mexico "probably soon, very soon... to discuss all matters pending between them."

The foreign secretary said Nicaragua will probably try to get concessions from the United States in exchange for a commitment to refrain from sending weapons to Salvadoran leftist guerrillas. "I don't know how they are going to negotiate on this or what each party will request from the other...but these are surely the matters they will discuss, and I believe objective conditions exist to achieve successful negotiations."

SALVADORAN SOLIDARITY FORUM SET FOR 26-28 MARCH

FL230255 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0014 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- More than 40 committees and organizations from all over the world in solidarity with El Salvador will hold an "international forum of solidarity with the Salvadoran people," according to reports in the press today. The forum will be held at a theater here beginning on Friday, 26 March, and will be attended by members of the FMLN and the Democratic Revolutionary Front. The forum will examine the present military and political situation in El Salvador and the status of Salvadoran political refugees. The meeting will be held 26-28 March.

PAPER EXPLAINS BACKGROUND TO GUATEMALA COUP

FL242210 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1810 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- UNO MAS UNO comments today that the U.S. preference for a civilian candidate in order to continue to arm Guatemala without hindrance from the U.S. Congress may have influenced the recent coup d'etat there. For his part, Luis Cardosa y Aragon, speaking on behalf of the Guatemalan Committee for Patriotic Unity, states in the same daily: "What is happening in Guatemala is a farce within a farce. Following the electoral farce, there is the coup d'etat farce perpetrated by the U.S. State Department." Cardosa adds that "U.S. imperialism made the situation worse with its imposition of Gen Anibal Guevara," and as such is "guilty of hideous massacres in Guatemala." He said there is an attempt to confuse, deceive and mislead, but not even the most naive person believes the situation has changed; "It has worsened."

The UNO MAS UNO editorial says the influence of the oligarchic land-owning sector and the large vote received by Alejandro Maldonado Aguirre, candidate of the National Renovator Party, in coalition with the Christian Democratic Party, were possible reasons that led to the military takeover. The daily said that so far the statements made by the coupists have been limited to denouncing a corrupt minority damaging Guatemala's image abroad and if they have mentioned anything regarding human rights they have done so in a very obscure manner and failed to say anything about the terror prevailing in the country and the armed conflict. It warns that if the new government fails to take the past elections into account and if it continues with the same policies that have been in effect since 1954, it will be following the same bloody path that led to the present crisis.

Luis Cardosa y Aragon said there is no guerrilla war in Guatemala. "What there is is a great national and popular rebellion against genocide, exploitation and foreign dependence. The Guatemalan revolution marches on and the people will triumph."

INTENSE SHOOTING REPORTED IN SAN SALVADOR

PA241440 Paris AFP in Spanish 1427 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Mar (AFP) -- Intense shooting broke out this morning on the outskirts of San Salvador, from San Jacinto hill to Ilopango Boulevard and the Amatec colony.

Since 0500, the sound of machineguns and other weapons of different calibers from different sources can be heard in the city; automobile traffic is semiparalyzed and air force helicopters are flying at rooftop-level over the area where the shooting is taking place. However, so far there have been no official reports on the matter and no victims have been reported although the Red Cross has moved its units into the area of the shooting.

More on Guerrilla Attacks

PA250005 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2214 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- On the second anniversary of the assassination of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero and only 4 days away from the elections for a constituent assembly, the Salvadoran guerrillas launched attacks against the capital and San Francisco Gotera.

The capital has been under attack since the early morning hours by the leftwingers, who are opposed to the elections called by the junta headed by Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte. The guerrillas have announced on "Radio Venceremos," official spokesman of the FMLN, that they would fight the civilian-military junta "before, during and after the elections."

According to unofficial reports, the army is surrounded in San Francisco Gotera, capital of the Department of Morazan, and there are problems in sending reinforcements from the southwestern part through San Miguel and from the southern part through La Union Department.

That region, where, according to the sources, fierce fighting is underway, is on the Honduran border, and more intense battles are taking place in "El Tigre" hill in the vicinity of "Torola," where the guerrillas blew up a bridge a few weeks ago. The official sources did not indicate how many casualties had been sustained by the army in the recent fighting.

All the eastern part of El Salvador has been without electricity for weeks now and, in some cases, even months. Other regions of El Salvador in which guerrilla activities have been intense in the past few days are northern Chalatenango and eastern Usulutan.

As for the elections, six parties are trying to get the majority of the 60 deputy seats of the constituent assembly. All of the parties are center-right or rightwing, from Duarte's Christian Democracy to the ultra "nationalist Republican Alliance" of Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson.

DUARTE COMMENTS ON ELECTIONS, GUATEMALAN COUP

PA242158 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2108 GMT 24 Mar 82

[By Harvey Morris]

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Jose Napoleon Duarte, civilian president of El Salvador, expressed his confidence today that the military will respect this Sunday's elections despite the example of the military coup yesterday in Guatemala. Duarte spoke during the last day of an electoral campaign, which was marked by a resurgence of guerrilla attacks such as those which occurred today in various parts of the country.

Army sources said that some 200 leftwing guerrillas were blocking the principal routes leading to the province of San Vicente in eastern El Salvador, and stopping the vehicles, while army troops were locked in a 4-hour clash with subversives near the old airport of San Salvador. Duarte stated today at a press conference that the guerrilla attacks are aimed at thwarting the elections, demonstrating that the insurgents do not want democracy.

"They are blackmailing the country and the people. They do not want the people to express their opinion," Duarte stated in the press conference. He added that the Salvadoran militarymen, who once held him prisoner and exiled him, have pledged to abide by the results of the elections in which the Christian Democrats headed by Duarte are contesting with five rightwing parties for 60 seats in a constituent assembly.

Duarte said that the military coup in Guatemala, which according to him is centrist, was a symptom of the instability that is affecting all Central America. The military seized power yesterday in Guatemala in a bloodless coup condemning last month's elections which they termed fraudulent.

Duarte expressed his confidence that there will be no fraud in the 28 March elections and said that the Electoral Council of the country enjoys absolute autonomy. Political exiles, including some fellow Christian Democrat militants of Duarte, said that the elections would not be legitimate because the violence of the rightwing and leftwing in the country would boycott them. The pact through which Duarte holds power with the military should end once the election results are known.

The President said that those results could lead to the forming of a coalition government in case no party obtains an absolute majority. However, political sources have said that the political attacks that characterized the electoral campaign could be an obstacle for possible government alliances.

The rightwing has accused Duarte of being a secret leftist due to his agrarian and financial reform measures while other rightist followers have said he is too soft in acting against the guerrillas. "The world knows that we are moving in the direction of controlling the abuses of authority which I think form part of our structure or cult of violence," Duarte said.

More than 30,000 people have died in the past 2 years in El Salvador as a result of the political violence. Human rights groups have said that leftist sympathizers have been deliberately killed by progovernment forces.

PRESIDENT ISSUES REPORT ON NEWSMEN'S DEATHS

PA241642 Paris AFP in Spanish 0050 GMT 24 Mar 82

[By special AFP correspondent Gilberto Lopez]

[Text] El Paraiso, El Salvador, 23 Mar (AFP) -- Today Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte fulfilled his promise to submit a detailed report on the death last Wednesday of four Netherlands television newsmen, but an important question was left unanswered.

No one could explain how, according to the official report, a 40-minute battle, which occurred around 1800 in a rural area, could result in the death of eight people, including the four newsmen -- of whom at least half were shot in the head -- while no one else was wounded and no prisoners were taken.

The president arrived at the Hotel Camino Real unexpectedly this morning to propose that the members of the foreign press go immediately to the area where the four newsmen were killed, though he warned that they could speak with none of the 25 members of the military patrol who, according to the official report, participated in the clash.

The entire patrol, the president explained, was out on a mission today outside the El Paraiso outpost accompanied by Col Mario Reyes Mena, the Paraiso commander, and Maj Carolos Aviles, the presidential chief of staff. Duarte offered ample details to the newsmen.

The detailed official report, submitted by Aviles with the aid of a blackboard and a drawing of the site of the clash, reiterated the story that was released 24 hours after the incident. However, the contradictions with the account told by the Netherlands newsmen's driver still persisted, according to the reporters present.

Netherlands reporter Koos Koster and his companions fell in a 40-minute clash in a rural sector 60 km north of the capital, as they were heading toward the mountains with a company of guerrillas, to report on the situation in zones controlled by the rebels. The clash, according to the official report released today, took place when a patrol of 25 men led by an army sergeant was allegedly attacked by guerrilla forces positioned on 2 hills, while trying to protect the 10-man column that accompanied the newsmen.

According to Major Aviles, the soldiers took positions on two other high points when attacked and the battle began. The rebel forces were estimated at 20 to 30 men.

Dressed in fatigues, the major drew a map on the blackboard while giving his explanation in Spanish, after which he translated it into good English. President Duarte interruped several times to explain aspects that he considered important or to stress relevant points.

According to the report, the column was pinned down by the clash that ensued after the guerrillas' fire, while it was heading for the mountains. Eight of the guerrillas were killed, while the fate of two remains unknown.

The government reported today that the newsmen's belongings, including their camera equipment, the disposition of which was not known until today, are being held by the chief of staff. Duarte himself promised to give the press a copy of a "safe-conduct" document presented to Koster in Mexico by Commander "Valentin" of the Popular Liberation Forces (FPL). Major Aviles also revealed that the newsmen had in their possession a letter addressed by a guerrilla woman named "Eva" to Commander Guzman.

At the end of the briefing, which was to have been complemented with another on-site briefing and with other minor details about the locations and the times of movement by the military patrol and the guerrilla forces, there was still one very important contradiction. The Netherlands newsmens' driver, who is in Managua, where he talked with newsmen a few days ago, said that he left the newsmen without hearing any shots. This would indicate that the Netherlands newsmen were on the site of the clash before the clash began. But according to Major Aviles, a soldier saw the vehicle leaving the area after the first shots had been fired.

This detail might be important in determining if the soldiers were aware that there were newsmen in the group. Apart from this, however, what was most noteworthy was the accuracy of the shots. Eight persons were killed, at least four of them shot in the head. On the other hand, although the soldiers were attacked first, there were no casualties among the government forces and no one was wounded in the clash. It is felt here that the autopsies will undoubtedly shed new light on the detail of this tragedy.

PARTY FEARS ELECTION FRAUD WITH EXCESS BALLOTS

PA242140 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0128 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- National Conciliation Party [PCN] leaders said at a news conference yesterday that they fear an election fraud due to the "exaggerated number of voting ballots printed by the Central Elections Council." The Elections Council has printed 3 million ballots for the 28 March elections.

The PCN said that the election council printed 1.5 million ballots more than planned, which has caused "a certain lack of confidence" among the parties because they estimate that number of voters will be 1.2 million with all the facilities provided by the election council. Francisco Jose Guerrero, one of the leaders of the PCN, said that "black clouds are threatening to make 28 March not as clear as had been promised."

Another member of the party, Col Roberto Escobar Garcia, said that "the only way left for the Christian Democrats to obtain a majority on the constituent assembly is to resort to fraud." He said that the people, except in exceptional cases, are prepared to vote and trust the armed forces to guarantee the process.

RADIO FARABUNDO MARTI REPORTS ON CURRENT ISSUES

Duarte Condemned

PA182235 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Duarte and the death squads have common positions. The threats against 35 local and foreign newsmen made by the deadly Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez paramilitary group, the same one that claimed credit for the murder of Enrique Alvarez, Juan Chacon and four other leaders of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, are in line with Napoleon Duarte's bullying and charges against international news sources of contributing to what he calls the discrediting of the country abroad.

Honest and valiant journalism has always been opposed by those who commit great crimes against our people. In the U.S. news media, there are journalists who believe in honest, democratic and aggressive journalism. Duarte and D'Aubuisson, who is the leader of the death squad mentioned above, have ordered all sorts of threats in the midst of the democratic and participative election campaign. These two make threats against honest journalists in an effort to scare them. In the face of the lies of the bloody junta, revolutionary truth will always shine.

Dutch Newsmen's Deaths

PA192132 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] After initial conflicting statements, the armed forces have admitted their responsibility in the assassination of four Dutch newsmen on 16 March in Chalatenango Department, near Santa Rita. Several international news media have indignantly denounced this new crime committed by the Salvadoran junta against honest and brave journalism.

There is no excuse for this crime, committed in cold blood and not during a clash, as the junta would have the world believe. The newsmen murdered by the assassin's bullets of the Christian Democratic military junta were from the group of international correspondents, who had recently been summoned by the Treasury Police, and worked for a Dutch television network.

The chief editor of that television network said that after Koster's arrest by the Treasury Police, the team of newsmen to which he belonged had practically been banned in their activities. Meanwhile, Max van der Stoel, foreign affairs minister of the Netherlands, has ordered his ambassador to Mexico to go immediately to El Salvador and to open an exhaustive investigation into the crime committed by members of the El Pariso garrison in Chalatenango.

The attitude assumed by several local news media which have carried only the false reports released by the genocidal armed forces, is shameful. These news media are collaborating in an effort to intimidate the honest newsmen who cover the war in our country.

The men responsible for the death of the four Dutch newsmen -- Koos Koster, Hans Lodewijkter, Jan Kuiper and Jan Willimsen -- along with that of the other civilians with them, are Col (Adalberto Reyes Mena), the commander of the El Paraiso military garrison in Chalatenango, and the other officers of that genocidal garrison.

Radio Farabundo Marti of the FMLN strongly denounces this new crime committed by the genocidal Christian Democratic military junta and demands the immediate prosecution of those responsible for it.

'Massacre' Reported

PA201707 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Summary] Our correspondent on the Modesto Ramirez Central Front reports that on 7 March the enemy massacred poor peasants in the village of Palo Blanco in San Pedro Perpulapan. "The paramilitary bands, supported by the National Guard, killed 14 children; 5 women, 3 of them pregnant; and 6 men. Our courageous companero obtained the accounts from witnesses, running many risks in view of the patrols by the repressive organizations." A 90-year-old woman gave an account of the crimes that were committed, the raping of the women and the murder of the children. [recording indistinct]

These criminals raped women and cruelly killed 14 innocent children "under the orders of the local commander, (Moises Montenegro); and criminals (Ulises Rosales) and (Carlos Duran)."

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON CURRENT ISSUES

Actions in Capital

PA190357 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Summary] "We are now establishing contact with San Salvador, where Commander Alejandro Montenegro will tell us about the way our forces entered San Salvador and Cuscatancingo, dealing a political and military blow to the dictatorship."

[Begin relay] The takeoover of Cuscatancingo began at 1345. Commanders (Jaime), (Leonel Rios), (Segismundo) and (Cristobal) led the forces from the various sides. We also had a group led by (Javier Quintanilla), who was in charge of the attack on the garrison, and the forces led by (Andres Perez) and (William Rivera), which were charged with attacking the national guardsmen at point 24. [end relay]

"Commander Montenegro, could you tell us where the most bitter fighting took place in Cuscatancingo?"

[Begin relay] The worst fighting took place on Mejicanos street in the Panama neighborhood. "The enemy concentrated most of his forces and armored vehicles there, where they tried to break our defenses and [words indistinct]." The conflict lasted approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes. It went on in all sides but the most bitter fighting occurred there. "We believe that we inflicted heavy casualties in our attack on the garrison." [end relay]

"Commander Montenegro, aside from the military activities in Cuscatancingo, did you carry out propaganda or political activities? Over."

[Begin relay] "Our political activities consisted of distributing propaganda among the people. We seized Radio Romantica and transmitted messages to San Salvador for 20 minutes." We painted walls and held sporadic rallies. [end relay]

The junta has tried to misinform our people by reporting some 12 alleged casualties among the guerrilla forces. "What can you tell us about this? Over."

[Begin relay] As is usual, the dictatorship is trying to cover the truth to deceive the people because it knows that it controls the media. "We actually had two heroic casualties, with the death of two companeros. We also had two men who were slightly wounded. As for weapons, we lost none." [end relay]

"Commander Montenegro, what was the attitude of the people on the outskirts of San Salvador when they saw that our forces were entering?"

[Begin relay] "We felt that the people's reaction was very positive. We received a lot of support." Our combatants received food and information from them. [end relay]

"Commander, this was in regard to Cuscatancingo; now, what can you tell us about the mortar attack on the San Carlos garrison, the hearquarters of the 1st Infantry Brigade?"

[Begin relay] "This operation was the responsibility of Commander (Cornejo) and consisted of two parts; first, taking over 5th November Street, with access to Mejicanos Street, and building barricades there; and second, launching a mortar attack against the 1st Infantry Brigade at Universitaria Norte Street." This was a successful action. We fired four mortar grenades and have been told that they all hit the installations and exploded. In view of this, the enemy adopted a defensive position, deploying its forces to surround the General Staff building, the Presidential Palace and the National Guard. [end relay]

"What kind of mortars did you use in the attack against the San Carlos garrison?"

[Begin relay] "We used 60-mm mortars, which had been recovered by our forces. Over." [end relay]

How are Radio Venceremos transmissions being received by the people in the capital?

[Begin relay] We have heard some of them. I believe that the number of listeners have increased, because the people know that Radio Venceremos is at the combat locations with its correspondents so that the information is given right when it happens and thus we are effectively able to counteract the enemy's misinformation campaign. [end relay]

What would be your call to our people in this phase, in which we are preparing for the popular insurrection?

[Begin relay] "My call to all of the workers, students, market vendors and peasants is to be aware of the fact that we have entered a very decisive moment. This is practically an insurrectional period." All of the proletarian sectors will play an important role within the cities. [end relay]

More Attacks on Newsmen

PA201630 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Last minute reports arriving at this station indicate that the criminal junta continues the campaign unleashed against foreign journalists who are covering the Salvadoran situation.

Here is a report: Two groups of newsmen escaped uninjured after an attack by army forces. The first group attacked by troops of the dictatorship was composed of three correspondents of Brazil's O GLOBO television channel who were traveling 70 km east of San Salvador in San Vicente Department.

The Brazilian newsmen were attacked by forces of the dictatorship that set themselves up in a V formation and fired at the Brazilians' vehicle despite the fact that it carried a white flag and sign identifying them as members of the international press.

The Brazilian newsmen said that only a quick and bold maneuver by the driver of the vehicle, which was turned around at full speed, saved their lives.

Another report that further discloses the campaign that the dictatorship has started against foreign newsmen is the following:

Correspondents of the New York TIMES and the TIMES of London and another Brazilian newsman were attacked by a civil defense patrol near Santa Rita, which is close to Chalatenango. This group of journalists were going to gather information at the site where the dictatorship's troops assassinated four Dutch newsmen. When the group of newsmen arrived at the site of the incident, a civilian patrol surrounded and threatened them, telling them to leave the place. As they were returning, this same group of newsmen was ambushed for a second time; this time by a group of hooded men who made them raise their hands and accused them of having connections with the rebels. They threatened them and told them to leave the country.

The questions that foreign newsmen and the whole world are asking are: Why is the Salvadoran junta trying to prevent newsmen from investigating the death of the four Dutch newsmen in Chalatenango? Why have the junta's troops attacked foreign newsmen who went to seek the truth in Chalatenango?

There is only one answer to this: The criminal junta is trying to hide a crime for which it is responsible. The campaign that the Christian Democratic junta has launched against foreign newsmen has another meaning too; the dictatorship does not want foreign newsmen to witness the electoral farce that the Salvadoran Government is trying to hold. This is the entire truth about the campaign that the government has unleashed against foreign journalists.

Further Repression Charged

PA201720 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] It is not a coincidence that the regime has ordered the killing of four newsmen, thus opening a new wave of repression against foreign correspondents. The death threats to the lives of almost all foreign newsmen in El Salvador and the immediate killing of four of them is the result of the regime's total defeat in its battle against truth.

In their desperation, the fascists are trying to use the last card. They are showing the newsmen an example so they leave or shut up. This example has been the killing of the four Dutch newsmen. Now the assassins are claiming that their victims were linked to the guerrillas. They are trying to justify their crime by saying that the newsmen were killed in combat as they accompanied a guerrilla force. The truth is different. The foreign newsmen that they are threatening and killing are not guerrillas or leftists. They are professionals who are doing their job by gathering the truth and they have already become enemies of the junta by reporting this truth. The U.S. journalists who confirmed that the Morazan massacre that Radio Venceremos reported was true are enemies of the regime. The newsmen who were not allowed to enter Cuscatancingo so that they would not see that the occupation of that town was true are also enemies of the junta. The newsmen who refuse to lie in favor of the junta are not threatened because of guerrilla ties but because of their ties with the truth.

Our colleagues, the foreign journalists, have always demanded the junta's protection as they carry out their duties but this has been denied to them. They have demanded official cards for correspondents accredited in the country and this has also been denied to them. They have demanded a stop to constant accusations and threats by members of the government and the high command; this has also been denied and these threats and accusations continue.

The foreign correspondents have demanded free movement throughout the country and this has also been denied to them. Each of them who goes to the war fronts and the zones controlled by the FMLN is accused of being a guerrilla and thus sentenced to death. We demand that the international community make every possible effort to put a stop to the criminal madness of this desperate regime.

Villalobos Appeal to Army

PA202205 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Statement by Joaquin Villalobos, FMLN General Command member, addressed to the members of the Salvadoran Army; date not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] Officers, rank-and-file of the Salvadoran Army, members of the military patrols, members of the civil guard:

Our fatherland is going through a difficult time. The imminent approach of a bloody war is sensed in all sectors of our society, primarily by those who, like yourselves, find themselves directly involved in it, perhaps not willingly, but for reasons of protection or because of your love for an spirit of loyalty to your organization.

In the name of the FMLN's General Command, through its official spokesman Radio Venceremos, I want to send you fraternal greetings and, above all, to ask you to think carefully about the many aspects of this war.

First, we must realize that it is not psssible for our country to continue to destroy itself with so much bloodshed, that it is necessary to put an end to the sorrow and anguish caused in the homes of the many members of the armed forces who die every day. We must put a stop to the long obituary listings published daily in the papers, the bloodshed caused by the rural massacres ordered by the fascist ranking commands of the army, the suffering in our fighters' humble homes and the abuse to the dignity of so many fellow countrymen in the country's clandestine prisons.

We want to remind you that when you are in combat, those whom you see in the sight of your rifles, machineguns or cannon are humble Salvadorans like yourselves. In other words, we are engaged in a fratricidal combat, which can only be stopped through understanding, dialogue and reasoning. That is why the FMLN has proposed for so long that it is necessary to seek negotiation between the two conflicting sides, that it is necessary to establish prior conditions to reach an agreement that will put an end to this war and achieve peace.

If the solution we propose is reasonable, then why has the army failed to give us a favorable answer? The most important reason for this is the stubborn opposition of the corrupted and criminal high command to negotiations, due to the simple fact that they are responsible for so much crime, thievery and every kind of corruption. They are terrified to think that all of their crimes would be brought up for discussion at the negotiating table. They also fear that the armed forces themselves may come to realize the damage caused by their actions to the name of the organization; thus they fear their own organization's justice, along with that of the people.

The other barrier, related to the first,is the great amount of prejudice, hatred and fear in many members of the armed forces, resulting from the campaigns of slander, hatred and misinformation used by the commands to prevent the honest and patriotic members of the army from learning the truth about the situation.

You were told that the struggle underway is against communism. We ask you; hasn't this always been the same argument used every time you were sent to repress any demonstration of discontent? We are sure that you would be branded as communists if you dared to express your disagreement with the high commands or to voice your agreement on the need for understanding and negotiation. The high command has told you that you are fighting to defend the fatherland from aggression from Cuba and Nicaragua. If you have been on the battlefronts at any time, you must have realized that your enemy was Salvadoran, not Cuban or Nicaraguan or any other nationality. On the other hand, you have been able to confirm the presence of the U.S. Green Berets, who often assume command of the national army.

The power of our forces today is the result of our people's heroism and sacrifice. In our forces, in contrast to the national army, there are no millions of dollars or tons of arms. Fifty years of military dictatorships, electoral frauds and repression forced us to take up arms to defend the people's interests. For this reason we have armed ourselves in any way possible, depending upon the circumstances. We have even obtained arms in the United States and by making use of the existing corruption that exists in our country's armed forces.

We are defenders of our national identity. We have waged this war alone; before our voices became loud enough to be heard throughout the world, many thousands of Salvadorans had to die. We will never permit our country to become a satellite for any foreign power. That is why we cannot allow our country's problem to be branded as a conflict between Moscow and Washington. Ours is the war of an entire nation against a handful of oppressors.

You are told that negotiations are a maneuver intended to destroy the army. We tell you that the revolutionary forces have an honest and sincere willingness to find a political solution to the conflict. What we want to do is to end, once and for all, the corruption, crime, torture and great misfortune, which disgraces the country and its institutions.

You, more than anyone else, know the power that the FMLN has been gaining; you know that we do not need any pretexts to advance as a popular army. We, however, want to tell you that in order to confront the hard tasks of remedying and reconstructing our country and of maintaining a policy of self-determination and independence, we need to create a single force together.

Our desire is not to destroy but to gain force and talk with all sectors and individuals capable of responding to the historic commitment to fight for our country's dignity and sovereignty. We know that you are very concerned about your personal situation and about that of your family. We also realize your concern about your situation as militarymen and your fear that your capability may be underestimated. You would be worried about the kind of system that would be established as a result of negotiations and you would be worried that you might not be included in it. We tell you that our proposal is to find, together with all of the country's honest and patriotic sectors, a concrete answer to these and many other problems, which must be faced to solve the crisis in our fatherland.

That is why we have said that we want peace negotiations without previous conditions. That is why our program is flexible and promotes the establishment of a government with broad popular participation; that is to say, it will not be just our capabilities that will play a role in guiding our country's destiny and in reconstructing the armed forces, but that of all Salvadorans of good will.

Leaders, officers, rank-and-file of the armed forces, members of military patrols, members of the civil guards; on the path for peace and self-determination, there is no other possibility but to join our arms. By this we mean not only our rifles and machineguns, but the powerful weapons of reason, honor and dignity. These arms make Garcia, Gutierrez and the entire high command tremble, because they are involved in crime and corruption. Those powerful arms stagger the U.S. warmongers, who only want to spread desolation and death to the world.

Let us lift the barriers of prejudice and fear that keep us from mutual understanding. Let us say no to the continued bleeding of our country. Let us end the high command's maneuvers to avoid having to render an account of their crimes and thievery. Let us reject any kind of intervention and alignment and let us take the path to peace. United to fight, until final victory, we will win!

Cienfuegos Calls For Revolt

PA212250 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] In this special program prepared for officers and soldiers of the national army, we are going to establish contact with Commander Ferman Cienfuegos, member of the General Staff of the FMLN.

Commander Ferman Cienfuegos, the events at the San Carlos barracks in San Salvador and those at the 3d Brigade in San Miguel prove that there is unrest among officers and soldiers because of the policy of extermination of the people being applied by the military high command, the corruption that exists within the high spheres of the national army, and the fascist groups' decision to unnecessarily prolong the war. In view of this, what is the FMLN's message to patriotic elements of the national army.

[Cienfuegos] We call on the patriotic forces in the armed forces to revolt against the high command thus following glorious examples of uprisings in barracks. This is a constitutional right when there is an illegitimate regime.

El Salvador has always had patiortic, democratic and progressive elements in the army. On various occasions in the country's history, they have tried to be on the side of the people. This happened in the army uprising of 1944 against the Martinez dictatorship. Officers also participated in that action. There was the outstanding effort of Lt (Alfonso Marin) who was executed by the dictatorship.

In November of 1960, an army sector rose against the high command to give the country a democratic opportunity.

The military uprising of 25 March 1972 was, perhaps, the most important in the past 10 years. This uprising generated an important movement in the history of the armed forces. This movement was headed by Col (Benjamin Mejia), an exemplary man because of his progressive disposition toward the well-being of the people and social justice.

He was the [word indistinct] of the [word indistinct] movement and other movements that came later, movements such as Military Youth, headed by Colonel Majano and Col Abdul Gutierrez on 15 October 1979. Other movements have emerged in the armed forces since then. There is the 15 October movement and the (Benjamin Mejia) movement, in honor of the democratic fighter.

These examples show the world, the Salvadoran people, and the army officers, that it is possible -- there is still time -- for a sector of the armed forces, to fight alongside the people and to assume the banner of [words indistinct] of the armed forces. Based on this moral asset of the struggle of officers and soldiers, we call on officers, soldiers and noncommissioned officers to revolt against the high command. We call on them to carry out legitimate uprisings in barracks and to refuse to massacre our people. Together we can build a better fatherland, a fatherland with peace. We call them to revolt and to rebel.

[Question] Commander Ferman Cienfuegos, could you tell us about the present situation within the armed forces?

[Answer] The Salvadoran Army is going through a moment of institutional crisis as a result of the adventuresome policies of the high command and the United States. During the first few months of this year, the high command has been giving a cautious reply to the FMLN offensive.

In January and February it implemented several military measures which included a general withdrawal of troops, a general quartering of troops, because the high command is expecting a general FMLN offensive and after this attack they hope to carry out a counteroffensive.

But the fact is that the army has lost much territorial control. In addition to this, it has become evident that the reason for the troops' morale, their exhaustion, the surrendering of posts, desertions among soldiers and the continuous abnormal situation of the high command as a result of uprisings and rebellions, is that at this moment, the army is [words indistinct] and there is the example of the San Carlos barracks uprising. There, a company revolted to demand that the high command negotiate with the FMLN. The high command had to arrest 26 soldiers from that barracks.

In the San Miguel barracks there have been attempts at uprisings and there have been clashes between the National Guard and the soldiers [as heard] and one soldier died.

The high command arrested 46 members of the Air Force following the Ilopango Airport attack. Two of the arrested are officers. One of them is Captain (Hernandez). The other one is a lieutenant. The arrested include enlisted men and mechanics.

In Usulutan, a lieutenant murdered five soldiers. These facts show that there is a high degree of disarray and institutional crisis within the armed forces.

It is evident that the great pressure over the armed forces resulting from the FMLN offensive has been a factor in the crisis. The troops are beginning to understand that they can't struggle against the people because the soldiers and the officers come from the people.

There is a fairly large sector in the armed forces that is beginning to understand that the armed forces institution has to be saved from the adventuresome and genocidal policies of the high command which wants to embark the army on self-destructive actions. The high command wants to lead the army to its own self-destruction.

Meanwhile, the Reagan administration uses the armed forces for the benefit of its vital interests in the Central American region.

Political Prisoners Mistreated

PA222304 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Radio Venceremos has more information on the incidents on Thursday in Mariona prison. Last Thursday, combined Treasury Police and National Guardsmen elements headed by Colonel Moran, director of the Treasury Police, entered the prison with a large group of troops while others were posted outside the prison.

The forces of the dictatorship led by Colonel Moran were in Mariona prison from 0830 until 1150. We learned that our companero political prisoners were taken out with blows of rifle butts and were shoved out to the courtyard of the prison where they stayed during the military occupation. They were constantly threatened with death and anyone who dared to raise his head was kicked and struck with rifle butts.

Attention, here is more information on the Mariona prison. Several companero political prisoners were tortured. Among them was the son of a member of the government junta, the son of Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich, Antonio Morales Carbonell, who is hospitalized suffering from a serious wound in his thorax. Antonio Morales Carbonell was beaten savagely. Afterward they injected him with drugs to stop a brain hemorrhage. Another political prisoner who was savagely beaten was Hector Bernabe Recinos, whose head was covered by a hood and he was subjected to a savage beating. (Arturo Valencia) is another political prisoner who was beaten savagely.

(Alfredo Represas) was also beaten with rifle butts, as was (David Hernandez Jacobo), whose skull was cracked after successive beatings with rifle butts. (Javier Flores Cotaran) was beaten savagely and strung up by his testicles. (Nelson Ernesto Garcia) was beaten savagely and he has a fractured rib. (Luis Antonio Moreno), a handicapped companero, was kicked and they forced him to run despite the fact that he is handicapped in the legs. At 0853 in the morning, we learned that there are other companero political prisoners who were beaten and mistreated. We learned from Mariona prison, that the belongings of the prisoners such as radios, money, and other things were sacked by the troops led by the director of the Treasury Police, Colonel Moran.

Melendez Urges Insurrection

PA222344 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Interview with Jorge Melendez, alias Jonas, commander of the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front of the FMLN, date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Commander, how important to the FMLN strategic plans are the attacks that the revolutionary army has carried out to the cities of Usulutan, San Miguel, Santa Ana, San Vicente and San Salvador?

[Answer] The enemy sent their army out of the cities with the mission of annihilating us, but our forces, with the people's support, proved to have more maneuvering and military capacity when we defeated them. Throughout these actions we were able to maintain our forces intact. We also retrieved some arms and caused many casualties to the enemy.

The war is currently going through a new stage. We are no longer waiting for the enemy in our rearguard positions. We are now attacking the centers where the military junta has political control. We are putting up a fight in what they considered was a safe rearguard, that is, their own garrisons. In other words, where they thought they could return to safely to give their troops some rest, to reorganize and prepare new attacks to our fronts. At this moment, they have to fight in their own positions in the cities and this does not give them time to carry out attacks to our fronts.

Not only have our forces taken the initiative in the offensive by attacking the enemy's garrisons, but we also are in a better position than our enemy from a political and military viewpoint. From the political viewpoint, more people from the cities are joining our ranks in carrying out tasks for the insurrection, and from the military viewpoint, the genocidal army must stand to defend positions, while our forces are moving toward objectives which could have definite importance to our cause. The fact that we can attack the enemy in the cities proves the military and political deterioration and an inability to control our forces. Because ours is a small country, we must be highly organized and have the political support of the people. We could not move or get close to a city if we did not have the people's support. Therefore, the attacks we have made to cities represent a great step forward in our struggle and also the beginning of an action in which the initiative is in the hands of the FMLN forces.

[Question] Commander Jorge Melendez Jonas, what is the message of the FMLN to the people in the cities, who are getting ready to join the insurrection?

[Answer] In the first place, the people must understand that the juntas and U.S. imperialism have panicked, are terrorized, and that the battles are taking place in the cities. They are afraid that the people will join the insurrection in the cities. They know that their days are coming to an end, when they no longer have political and military control of the situation in the cities. Therefore, it is necessary for the people to realize that the time has come when they can count on an army which is strongly prepared, which has the necessary arms and experience to defeat the enemy. They must understand that what is important at this moment is for them to join the insurrection. We must all get ready and collect whatever materials we can gather for the insurrection.

For example, bottles to be filled with gasoline, picks and shovels to dig trenches and to dig holes in walls to escape from the enemy or to go through if necessary to attack the enemy from a flank or rearguard position. We must find out where the enemy is stronger, how many men they have, what type of arms. We must know every step, every move, every secret passage in the cities, which can help our forces' mobilization. The people must be ready to guide our forces where the enemy does not expect us. It is important to realize that despite the heavy artillery, cannons, armored cars and tanks, we can nullify that military advantage with our maneuvering ability. We must set up street barricades [words indistinct], a molotov bomb is basically a bottle full of gasoline with a device to set it off. It is also important for the people to understand that their support is of vital importance. Whoever has the people's support in city battles practically has the battle won. In this respect, the people must be fully aware that with the support of youths, women, men and elderly persons, we will have victory assured.

My message to the Salvadorans is that the FMLN forces are carefully planning up to the last detail all the attacks to be carried out in the great strategic battles. We have the experience, the arms and trained personnel, so that with the faith and [words indistinct] great people's support, we can defeat the genocidal army in order to establish the government that can bring about the hopes and desire of freedom of the Salvadorans.

Izalco Station Attacked

PA222236 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Radio Venceremos has received the following last minute report from the Feliciano Ama Western Front. Today at 0320, commando forces of the Feliciano Ama Western Front attacked with bazookas the Izalco ground station which serves as an international communications base.

The bazooka fire hit the main parabolic antenna. There were 50 soldiers of the dictatorship's army guarding this important communications center. The enemy troops could not repel our attack due to our effective action.

United to win until the final victory. Revolution or death. This report is signed by Commander (Miguel Ramirez) It is important that we note that the Izalco ground station is located near San Julian in Sonsonate Department. This communications center was damaged. The Izalco ground station provided service for international telephone, telex, radio and television communications via satellite.

GUATEMALA

JUNTA BEGINS FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT

PA241722 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1658 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Guatemalan Government junta today appointed Gen Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes as chief of the Army General Staff, Gen Oscar Mejia Victores as Deputy Defense minister and Col Hernan Ponce as chief of police. Junta President Gen Efrain Rios Montt will also be defense minister and junta member Gen Horacio Maldonado will act as government minister. Col Francisco Gordill, the third junta member, will also be communications minister.

Col Jaime Rabanles has been appointed spokesman for the junta. Until yesterday he was chief of army public relations.

Col Guido Abdala was today designated commander of the Mariscal Zabala garrison, the army's most important one in Guatemala City.

The junta announced that it will rule by decree since the constitution was abolished and the legislative congress dissolved yesterday after the overthrow of President Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia. Meanwhile, it was learned today that the coup began at 0400 yesterday morning when more than 900 plotting officers, the majority of them young and of relatively low rank, alerted garrisons throughout the country simultaneously and overpowered their commanders.

RIOS MONTT HOLDS IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE

PA241929 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1853 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The government junta has praised the news media. General Efrain Rios Montt, president of the junta, praised the local and international news media today during an unscheduled news conference, held at the newsmen's request. Rios Montt expressed his appreciation for the cooperation that the journalists have always shown. The general said that a nation without free news media is a people without eyes and ears.

Rios Montt said he believes the subversive movement will fail. He admitted, however, that the subversive movement affects the country's economy. General Rios Montt said that the guerrillas have no political weight and that they are only a subversive force, which will fail soon. He noted that the guerrilla movement has affected the country's economy because the peasants have been involved in it and have not been planting their crops, but the guerrillas must understand that without a broader basis they will fail.

A foreign journalist asked the govenment junta if the movement that overthrew the corrupt government of former President Lucas received U.S. and Israeli advice. Colonel Gordillo answered, noting that the movement was purely Guatemalan and that it resulted from Guatemalan needs.

More From News Conference

PA242216 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2031 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Gen Efrain Rios Montt, president of the military junta, today invited private enterprise and sister countries to help solve the country's economic and financial problems. During a news conference held at noon today, General Rios Montt said that former President Romeo Lucas and his high staff are under house arrest and at the junta's disposal.

The junta has also appointed two civilians as ministers, six assistants and the Armed Forces High Command.

Alfonso Alonso Lima, former foreign deputy minister, is the new foreign minister and Luis Merida, who was former secondary education director, has been appointed education minister.

The army high command is formed by Gen Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes, who is chief, and Col Hernan Ponce, the National Police general director, in place of Gen German Chupina, who at first refused to surrender to the rebels.

The military junta which yesterday seized power in Guatemala during a bloodless coup, is formed by Gen Efran Rios Montt, as president and defense minister; Gen Horacio Maldonado Schaad, who is also government minister; and Col Francisco Gordillo, in charge of communications. The young officers who led the rebellion of the 931 military officers who took part in the coup have been appointed assistants to the military junta.

The minister and top government officials arrested yesterday by the coupists are at the military junta's disposal and have been forced to help and cooperate with the new government officials, General Rios Montt said.

Regarding former President-elect Gen Anibal Guevara, General Rios Montt said that "when he resigned as defense minister to run for the presidency as the candidate of the official party, the Revolutionary Democratic Front, he asked to be relieved from active duty from the armed forces. Therefore, he is just another civilian."

He added that former President Lucas and all the members of his government are under the military junta's control and that they could be brought to trial if found guilty of breaking the law or corruption. Rios Montt said that among the government's plans, calling for free and democratic elections is a priority. He did not say if these would be held soon, in the near future or some time in the future. "It depends on the country's situation," he pointed out.

As for political exiles, Rios Montt said "those that are not wanted by the law can return to Guatemala." General Rios Montt invited "sister countries, private enterprise, technicians, professionals, peasants and soldiers" to help him solve the economic and financial problems affecting Guatemala.

ARMY COMMUNIQUE ON RIOS MONTT PRESS CONFERENCE

PA250241 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0040 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Regarding the press conference that Efrain Rios Montt, the president of the military government junta, held today at the National Palace, the army has issued the following communique:

The head of the military government junta has replied to questions posed by local and foreign newsmen. At a press conference held at noon today in the banquet hall of the National Palace, Brig Gen Efrain Rios Montt provided ample information on several aspects of the government platform, which has been drafted in part and which is aimed at achieving peace and order and bringing tranquillity to the Guatemalan people.

General Rios Montt answered questions from Guatemalan radio, television and newspaper reporters and from foreign correspondents, and said that he was happy to do so because whoever supports the media supports the people and their freedom.

The president of the military government junta added that the people of Guatemala and fraternal nations are fully aware of the armed forces' attitude regarding yesterday's events, which brought about the overthrow of the ruling regime.

General Rios Montt reported on the initial steps to draw up the government platform, which is aimed at guaranteeing order for the Guatemalan people so that they can live in peace, work freely and enjoy an atmosphere which in the future will allow them to elect their rulers in a free and honest manner and to fully enjoy the rights to which all mankind is entitled.

A thorough analysis of the circumstances and critical situations in Guatemala continues, particularly of those that affects the dignity of life in the nation. We must realize the seriousness of the situation of the Guatemelan people, he said.

Regarding the appointment of new cabinet members, the head of the military government junta announced that he is turning to the private sector, where he hopes to find the cooperation of technicians; of capable, practical and above all hardworking individuals. He stressed that there are absolutely no jobs for his friends.

The military leader stressed that the government's firm purpose is to live by the law and within the law, which consequently compels us to legalize a system that is advantageous for Guatemalans. He said that work on this is earnestly underway.

In his statement to the newsmen, General Rios Montt categorically stated he was not motivated by any desire for revenge, but by the determination to work in an ethical, honest and lawful manner and with a policy aimed at seeking the social welfare of all Guatemalans.

Regarding the possibility of a request for economic and technical aid from the United States of America, the head of the military government junta said that such a possibility might indeed arise, but that in that case the request would have to be based on a plan that would include operational rules within an overall strategy of objectives and priorities. We might or might not present such a request, he concluded.

Asked if he would be willing to accept his nomination for president, General Rios Montt replied categorically, stressing his decision to not accept any nomination for president of Guatemala because he has prior commitments with the Guatemalan Army that do not include the presidency of the republic. Regarding the terrorist movement in Guatemala, the junta president said that subversion is not within democratic precepts because it is outside the law.

Replying to questions on economic subjects, he said that precisely in this field subversion had caused serious incidents, but that from today on the subversives are going to have to think twice about their actions. In response to another question, General Rios Montt said that it is totally untrue that there was U.S. or Israeli advice or cooperation in yesterday's move by the army. It was a Guatemalan Army decision, he reiterated.

RIOS MONTT COMMENTS TO CROWD SUPPORTING COUP

PA250225 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0157 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Gen Efrain Rios Montt, president of the military government junta, guaranteed that after today there will be peace and security for all Guatemalans. General Rios Montt addressed 4,000 persons who gathered in front of the Presidential Palace to express their support of the coup d'etat that overthrew Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia.

"Fellow citizens, we want you to know deep in your heart, that the measures which the government junta takes will be aimed at guaranteeing respect of your vote, rights, and security," the government leader stated. "Guatemalans," he added, "we want us all to form a single ethical and responsible nationality."

The Guatemalan Army," Rios Montt added, "will not be a threat to its own people." Vinicio Cerezo, secretary general of Guatemalan Christian Democracy, who was rallying the crowd, said that the people had responded positively because a change could already be felt in government spheres.

NEW JUNTA PRESIDENT ISSUES PRESS BULLETIN

PA241800 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1705 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Press bulletin issued by the "president of the Guatemalan Military Government Junta and defense minister" on 24 March 1982 -- read by announcer]

[Text] 1. The president of the military government junta and defense minister states the following to the general officers, field-grade officers, subordinate officers, specialists, NCO's and soldiers and their equivalent in the Navy: Considering that:

The Guatemalan people have been the victims of fraudulent electoral maneuvers several times in recent years, which have caused them to lose faith in the democratic institutions under which we have lived since our political independence.

Trust in these institutions must be fully restored, in order to allow the birth of governments that are legitimately constituted and based on the people.

The Guatemalan Army is the institution called upon to fully guarantee the survival of these institutions and to ensure that the people of Guatemala have an order that allows them to live in peace, to work honestly,to enjoy a political climate that will permit free and clean elections by which to choose their future rulers, and to have, within that order, human rights insured.

The situation, to which the country was led through fraudulent elections, with the subsequent deterioration in moral values, division among democratic forces and the disorder and corruption in public administration, render the solution to these problems within a constitutional framework impossible.

Therefore, it is necessary for the Guatemalan Army to take over the government of the republic it thus decrees:

1. The Guatemalan Army, maintaining its military hierarchy, takes over the government of the republic through a military government junta, comprised as follows:

President: Brig Gen Jose Efrain Rios Montt
Member: Brig Gen Horacio Egberto Maldonado Schaad
Member: Infantry Col Francisco Luis Gordillo Martinez

2. The constitution of the republic is suspended for as long as the country's situation requires. However, human rights will be fully respected and guaranteed.

3. The government statute will be announced at an opportune time.

4. The military government junta takes over legislative duties and will rule through decrees, thus dissolving the Congress of the Republic.

5. The officials and employees of public administration and the country's courts will adjust their actions to current legislation.

6. The military government junta will honor the international agreements, treaties and commitments in effect as of this date.

7. The activities of political parties are hereby suspended.

8. The president of the military government junta, Brig General Rios Montt, will also be minister of national defense.

9. Junta member Brig General Maldonado Schaad will be the government minister.

10. Junta member Colonel Gordillo Martinez will be the minister of communications and public works.

11. An advisory group to the military government junta, made up of the following officers, is hereby appointed:

Infantry Col Victor Manuel Argueta Villalta
Infantry Lt Col (Mario Rene Henriquez Morales)
Engineering Corps Maj Angel Arturo Sanchez Gudiel)
Infantry Capt Carlos Rodolfo Munoz (Pidonia)
Aviation Capt, pilot, (Mario Augusto Rivas Garcia)
Infantry 2d Lt (Hector Mauricio Lopez Bonilla)

12. The military government junta appeals to the patriotism of all Guatemalans, so that they will firmly assist the government that is being established today, in order to create the necessary conditions for the future establishment of a regime based on principles of authentic democracy. [Dated] Guatemala City, 24 March 1982

JUNTA ANNOUNCES TOP MILITARY APPOINTMENTS

PA241938 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The military government junta that overthrew the government of Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia announced important appointments of top military leaders today: Gen Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes was appointed chief of the Army General Staff, replacing Gen Benedicto Lucas Garcia, who left the country for South America yesterday afternoon [as heard]. General Lopez Fuentes was appointed deputy chief of the Army General Staff last month. Prior to that, he was the commander of the Jutiapa Military Brigade.

Gen Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores was appointed deputy defense minister. He was the chief of the Army General Headquarters.

These new top military leaders were sworn in this morning and their appointment was issued in today's order of the day.

The new government junta announced other important appointments of chiefs of military organizations. These include Col (Guido Abdala) as commander of the Honor Guard Brigade, who was immediately sworn in, replacing Gen Rodolfo Cuyun Medina.

The top military command appointed Col Jaime Hernandez commander of the Honor Guard Brigade, replacing Gen Horacio Egberto Maldonado Schaad, who is a junta member and the new government minister. [sentence as heard]

Col Fernando Castillo Ramirez was appointed commander of the Guatemalan Air Force, replacing Gen Carlos Morales. Castillo Ramierez was the manager of the National Institute of Cooperatives and was transferred to the Air Force by orders of the high command.

Two Ministers Appointed

PA241904 Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The government junta made its first appointment of ministers today. Gen Efrain Rios Montt, accompanied by the other two members of the government junta, announced the names of the first two ministrs who will compose the cabinet.

Alfonso Alonso Lima, who was deputy foreign minister, has now replaced Rafael Castillo Valdez at the head of that ministry; and (Luis Merida), who was general director of education, has been appointed education minister, replacing Col Clementino Castillo.

JUNTA TO PURGE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION POSTS

PA250200 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0023 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] There will be new faces in public administration. The military government junta will purge the public administration, particularly key posts. This is part of the work plan of the new government leaders which will be made known in due time.

GRANMA TERMS COUP LEADER 'KNOWN CIA AGENT'

PA241606 Paris AFP in Spanish 1528 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Havana, 24 Mar (AFP) -- GRANMA, the Cuban Communist Party's official newspaper, said today that among the personalities that led yesterday's coup d'etat in Guatemala is Leonel Sisniega Otero, "a known CIA agent."

The newspaper added that Sisniega Otero was a candidate for the vice-presidency of the republic in the 7 March elections. He was nominated by the extreme rightist National Liberation Movement. According to GRANMA, Sisniega Otero "ran on the electoral ballot with Mario Sandoval Alarcon, a known murderer and chief of the National Liberation Movement."

RIOS MONTT SAYS LUCAS GARCIA BROTHERS IN COUNTRY

PA241911 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1848 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] It was officially confirmed this morning by national palace sources that Gen Benedicto Lucas Garcia, chief of the Army General Staff, left the country [as heard] yesterday afternoon by air. He left with his brother, former President Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia. They went to the country's northern sector, to a farm owned by General Lucas Garcia in the northern transversal belt.

Meanwhile, General Rios Montt confirmed today that former President Lucas Garcia, as well as his brother, are still in Guatemala. They are both home, the president of the junta said. Asked about the personal situation of the two generals, General Rios Montt said that as military officers, they are at the army's disposal.

Under House Arrest

FL242345 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2215 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Mar (NOTIMEX) — Gen Efrain Rios Montt, head of the government military junta, said today that deposed Guatemalan President Romeo Lucas Garcia is under house arrest. In a press conference, Rios Montt said that Lucas Garcia "is at the disposal of the army in his home," and that the same was true for his brother, Benedicto Lucas, former chief of staff, and of Defense Minister Gen Rene Mendoza.

The chief of the Guatemalan Government Junta appealed to the private enterprise sectors of the country to contribute ideas and names to form part of his cabinet. He also ratified his desire to guide this Central American nation again along the democratic road. He announced some appointments and warned that officials of the former government may be tried for "administrative corruption." Among the appointments announced is that of the new foreign minister, Alfonso Alonso Lima.

Rios Montt said that "the military junta which took over power following the victory of the army's young officers movement is now consolidated in the government and is preparing to govern the nation from now on through decrees."

Also, the Opposition Union, the alliance of the Christian Democratic Party and the National Renovating Party, announced a peaceful demonstration in support of the new government junta for this afternoon.

MANAGUA ACCOUNT OF LUCAS GARCIA'S WHEREABOUTS

PA241421 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City -- Guatemala's rightwing political parties have released communiques expressing their full support for the military coup that ousted Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia from the presidency yesterday. The ultrarightist National Liberation Movement has offered the warmest support for the coup that led to the installment of a government junta composed of armed forces officers.

Although less effusively, the Opposition Union, comprised of the Guatemalan Christian Democracy and the National Renewal Party, and the Nationalist Authentic Central, have also released declarations.

The so-called representative military government junta is presided over by Gen Efrain Rios Montt, who has said that the new government is clearly military and does not include civilians.

The national radio and television network established at noon continuously urged the people to maintain order.

In the afternoon, groups of excited citizens broke into the home of deposed Interior Minister Donald Alvarez Ruiz after forcing the doors open. The house was completely looted and seriously damaged, according to the Guatemalan news media.

Military vigilance continued in the evening; many soldiers could be seen in the capital's downtown area, amid the people's apparent indifference. Only two unimportant incidents occurred during the entire coup movement against Lucas Garcia's regime. One of them took place in Guatemala City and the other in the (Manuel Lisandro Barillas) military base in Quezaltenango, the country's second leading city.

Meanwhile, the Guatemalan Government junta, which was formed after Lucas Garcia's regime was overthrown, has announced the dissolution of the Congress and the abolishment of the National Constitution.

Ret Gen Efrain Rios Montt, who heads the junta, has announced that he will rule by decree. Rios Montt has also exhorted his opponents to end all resistance. According to him, the representative govenment junta includes himself as president, Gen Horacio Maldonado Schaad and Col Francisco Gordillo. However, Col Jaime Rabanales, who has described himself as head of the army's public relations department, said last night on radio and television that the junta includes not three but five members.

According to Rabanales, Rios Montt presides over the group, which is also led by Col Manuel Argueta Villalta, Lt Col Mario Enriquez, Maj Arturo Sanchez Gudiel and Capt Carlos Rodolfo Munoz.

According to other reports, Fernando Romeo Lucas, who surrendered to the coupists, has been sent abroad along with his brother, Gen Manuel Benedicto Lucas Garcia, who was chief of the General Staff until yesterday. There is no official information on the fate of president-elect Gen Anibal Guevara. The U.S. State Department, however, has already announced that he is safe.

OPPOSITION PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SUPPORT COUP

PA250356 Paris AFP in Spanish 0336 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 Mar (AFP) -- It was learned tonight that the three opposition presidential candidates in the 7 March elections have given their support to the coup d'etat carried out by the army yesterday.

Alejandro Maldonado, candidate of the Opposition Union which included the Christian Democracy, Mario Sandoval Alarcon, leader of the anticommunist National Liberation Movement, and conservative Gustavo Anzueto of the Nationalist Authentic Central approved as necessary the military movement that overthrew the government of former President Romeo Lucas Garcia.

HONDURAS

DELEGATIONS TO EXPLAIN GOVERNMENT STANCE ON AREA

PA241508 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Mar 82 p 28

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The Honduran Government is preparing to launch a Latin American diplomatic offensive to explain its position on the Central American situation.

Last night, when this paper went to press, the Foreign Policy Advisory Council, presided over by Presidential Office Secretary Carlos Flores Facusse, was still meeting at the Presidential House. This council is composed of all former foreign ministers, along with representatives of the National Congress, of the organized workers, of legally recognized political parties, of the private sector and others.

The Honduran Government is preparing to send commissions or delegations composed of representatives of all of these sectors throughout Latin America to explain the Honduran position on recent events that have occurred in Central America and to reaffirm Honduras' neutrality on neighboring countries' domestic problems, particularly in regard to Nicaragua.

DANIEL ORTEGA LEAVES TO ADDRESS UNITED NATIONS

PA241603 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega will reveal the plans for military aggression against Nicaragua before the UN Security Council tomorrow. Commander of the Revolution Ortega will speak tomorrow, Thursday, before the UN Security Council about the Nicaraguan charges of U.S. threats to invade our country.

The coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction left for New York this morning. He will meet this afternoon with the representatives of the nonaligned countries that are also UN members.

Commander Ortega, as head of the Nicaraguan state, will speak before the representatives of the 15 countries that make up the Security Council to reveal the Reagan government's constant aggression and threats against Nicaragua.

President Reagan's formal approval of a CIA plan to destabilize our country, the increased presence of U.S. spy ships and airplanes near and over our country and the increase in sabotage activities by counterrevolutionary groups forced the Revolutionary Government to establish a national state of emergency and to request an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council.

'Negotiated Solution'

PA242313 Paris AFP in Spanish 2255 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] New York, 24 Mar (AFP) -- Nicaragua will urge the UN Security Council to "promote a negotiated solution to the crisis in Central America," Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, announced today.

Ortega spoke before the nonaligned group at UN Headquarters to explain the reasons that prompted his country to request an urgent meeting of the Security Council, which opens tomorrow, Thursday.

The meeting was held behind closed doors, but it was learned that the Nicaraguan chief of state [as received] announced that his country does not intend in any way to obtain in that meeting "resolutions that condemn any given nation, but that condemn attitudes that disregard" and block the aspirations of the peoples of the region to promote changes.

Nicaragua is accusing the United States of sponsoring plans for an "imminent invasion" of Nicaragua, but Ortega did not say anything new in that regard. The Nicaraguan leader limited himself to asking the nonaligned countries for "solidarity with Central America and Nicaragua, to prevent a direct or indirect intervention in our region."

BAYARDO ARCE COMMENTS ON U.S. POLICIES IN REGION

PA241344 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Mar 82 p 3

[Excerpts of interview with Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce during the "first week of march," as published in the 12 March issue of BARRICADA INTERNACIONAL; place not given]

[Text] The Coincidences Between the Nicaraguan and Mexican Peace Proposals.

We must point out that the first point of coincidence between the Nicaraguan and Mexican proposals is the mention of a serious, responsible and practical concern about the problem of peace.

In addition, we agree on the need to avoid any type of intervention, military or otherwise, in the problems of the Central American and Caribbean regions. We agree on the need to guarantee self-determination of peoples and the sovereignty of nations, and we agree on the appropriateness of dialogue as the mechanism to achieve these valuable objectives.

We believe that the Mexican proposal pinpoints another very important problem on which we agree: the need for the United States todevelop a new kind of policy for Latin America; for the U.S. leaders to realize that times have changed and societies have developed; that today's world is different from yesterday's world, when the United States could look on Latin America in general as its backyard and as part of its domain. They must now try to acknowledge that here there are growing forces, autonomous political criteria and the opportunity developing in different nations to choose political lines that could be discussed in relationship with the United States but could never be subjected to U.S. judgement.

The Danger of an Intervention

The United States has involved itself in the Salvadoran elections in such a way that the main concern we Central Americans have at this stage is that we will soon be experiencing military intervention and generalized war in the region if the United States does not make an effort toward rectifying or promoting a solution to the Salvadoran crisis.

Our concern increases when, after France and Mexico had expressed support for negotiations, after the Salvadoran revolutionaries had presented a negotiation proposal through the Nicaraguan Government before the United Nations and after the Mexican president had suggested a proposal to the world toward finding a negotiated solution to the Salvadoran problem, President Reagan spoke and did not mention even one of these peace initiatives. This then implies that the United States feels that acceptance of negotiations would be humiliating to its policy. What is going to happen? The guerrilla ranks are increasing, guerrilla attacks are stronger and elections are increasingly threatened. The internaitonal community has rejected this electoral process, considering it a farce. Therefore, if the United States insists, the only thing left for the United States to do is to promote intervention.

That electoral process could change the Central American situation, affect the stability of the region and bring the chaos and anguish of war to 20 million Central Americans.

Reagan and National Unity

The Reagan government's policy is the main obstacle we face in the implementation of our national unity policy and the achievement of internal coexistence. We have rightist forces that would like to return to the past, but they would not have taken this provocative and confrontative attitude if they did not feel protected by the Reagan government's attitude.

The fact that there is a government that has camps of mercenaries training to attack Nicaragua, threatens to attack Nicaragua, does not answer when asked if it is supporting terrorist activity in our country and opposes financial credits in multilateral organizations gives support, strength and spirit to the rightist sectors in the interior of the country to continue a policy of provocation. There are some Central American countries that, without the U.S. example, would probably not lend themselves to or would be more careful in counteracting the existence of counterrevolutionary camps and activities in their territory. Therefore, the root of the problem is the U.S. Government's attitude that justifies and strengthens these groups that are trying to sabotage the efforts for national unity.

ACAN SUMMARIZES PRESS COMMENT ON GUATEMALA COUP

PA241504 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1322 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Managua, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) — Although Nicaragua has issued no official declaration yet on the bloodless coup d'etat in Guatemala, the pro-Sandinist press wonders today, Wednesday, whether the overthrow of Romeo Lucas "is a surrender of Salvadoran Duartism" in Guatemala. Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte and two other civilians are members of the Salvadoran Government junta, along with military officers.

EL NUEVO DIARIO, a newspaper edited by a cooperative of Sandinist workers, states in a front page editorial that the military coup in Guatemala has all of the characteristics of the movement that ousted General Romero in El Salvador in 1979.

BARRICADA, the FSLN mouthpiece, said only that after the "Lucas" era in Guatemala, a new and unknown stage is beginning in the country's life.

Sandinist Television said in last night's newscast that "It is possible that the Guatemalan coup is connected to U.S. strategy in Central America."

The (opposition) newspaper LA PRENSA in Managua confined itself to publishing ample information about the military rebellion that put an end to Lucas Garcia's regime in Guatemala.

"The Voice of the Defense of the Fatherland," the only radio newscast authorized by the government, which is broadcast over a national network of stations, also gave extensive information on the developments in Guatemala.

CASTANEDA DISCUSSES MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY HAIG

FL231135 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda met for more than 3 hours in Managua with the coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, Cmdr Daniel Ortega, government junta members Drs Rafael Cordoba and Sergio Ramirez, and Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto. Castaneda made a 1-day visit to Nicaragua, where he arrived from Cuba, to inform the Nicaraguan leaders of the outcome of his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig on 6 and 14 March in New York.

Shortly before boarding the plane to Mexico City, Secretary Castaneda highlighted the Nicaraguan Government's good disposition to begin talks with the United States to discuss pending bilateral issues. The foreign secretary will meet with representatives of the Democratic Revolutionary and Farabundo Marti Fronts this week in Mexico City to fulfill a mission identical to that he performed in Havana and Managua.

Talks With Castaneda Positive

PA240229 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, today reiterated that our Sandinist people's revolution is engaged in war for peace and that in this framework no aggression will be carried out. The revolution believes that the war that is not waged is the one best won, Cordova Rivas commented, on explaining what was discussed yesterday with Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda. Cordova Rivas said that Castaneda is promoting talks so that peace will be a reality in the Central American region.

Cordova Rivas described the meeting with Castaneda as positive. He indicated that they discussed various aspects of a political movement that only seeks real peace in Central America.

Statement in Mexico City

PA240856 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] On his return to Mexico City last night, Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda said that Nicaragua is fully willing to begin negotiations with the United States to achieve detente in Central America and the Caribbean. Castaneda, who refuses to answer questions posed by the newsmen who met him at the Mexico City Airport, made a brief statement mentioning, among other things, the Nicaraguan authorities' willingness to begin negotiations with the U.S. government to try to find a solution to the political problems afflicting the Central American and Caribbean region.

A Mexican Government spokesmen said that Castaneda was going to meet with President Lopez Portillo today to report on his talks with Cuban and Nicaraguan authorities.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES DOMESTIC TRADE REGULATIONS

PA241530 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Mar 82

[Text] The Domestic Trade Ministry (MICOIN) announced today that it will implement strict price controls. A list of prices on staples will be published in order to protect the workers' real wages. "The announcement states that all wholesalers, whether stationary or mobile, along with all distributors, foreign product representatives or marketers, will be required to furnish consumers with price lists on their products, duly authorized by the Domestic Trade Ministry."

The MICOIN resolution also states that no enterprise engaged in producing, importing or marketing any kind of merchandise, whether domestically produced or imported, can change its sale prices without prior authorization by the ministry.

MICOIN believes that all commercial activity is related to financial policy and to the introduction of our economy in international trade, and is therefore tied to the terms of interchange and availability of foreign currency.

The resolution states that all dealers must show their accounting books, business correspondence and commercial invoices upon request. The MICOIN document also says that MICOIN representatives or inspectors must have access to business warehouses, office buildings and other facilities that they wish to see.

The denial of access to these facilities would be seen as an act of contempt and the MICOIN representative could then request police assistance in carrying out his assignment, the document points out.

The regulation emphasizes that all wholesalers, whether stationary or mobile, as well as distributors, foreign product representatives, marketers or anyone who produces and sells his products will sell only to dealers with a license to do business.

The document also specified that whenever MICOIN deems it necessary it will advise dealers, especially wholesalers, of the channels, volume and frequency that they will use in the sale of their products. No merchant will link the sale of one product with the purchase of another product without prior authorization from MICOIN.

In regard to enforcement, the regulation specifies that fines of no less than 100 and no more than 100,000 cordobas may be imposed; and any offender's business may be regulated, his merchandise confiscated and his enterprise closed, either temporarily or permanently. Fines will be payable to the local government juntas within 72 hours of imposition at the corresponding treasuries. If a fine is not paid, the juntas will order the temporary closure of the establishment.

According to the document, all merchants must issue an invoice for each sale with the letterhead or stamp of the Central Revenue Office. This regulation is being implemented in accordance with the Domestic Trade Ministry's organic law and is approved by Dionisio Marenco Gutierrez, Minister of Domestic Trade.

SANDINISTS ATTACK OPPOSITION LABOR ACTIVISTS

PA231233 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Mar 82 p 6

[Text] On Thursday the Confederation for Unity of Trade Unions, CUS, released the following communique on an attack by mobs on two of their members: Between 1000 and 1130 on 9 March, two of our members were among many people present when prisoners from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Nicaragua, FARN, and those belonging to the Nicaraguan Democratic Union, UDN, appeared before the judge in Chinandega District. They were Rosendo Solorzano Fonseca, secretary of conflicts of the various trade unions in Chinandega and national and international relations secretary of the Federation of Chinandega Peasant Workers, FETRACHI; and Javier Altamirano Perez, FETRACHI organization and propaganda secretary, as well as minutes secretary for the CUS. Our two members were identified by members of the so-called "divine" mobs and were brutally beaten and kicked, with the participation of the Sandinist police.

In view of the attack, our members took refuge at the FETRACHI offices, whereupon 10 members of the Sandinist police entered violently, carrying their regulation weapons. Our companeros Altamirano and Solorzano were forced to raise their hands and were threatened with death. On protesting this, Solorzano was compelled to undress and was beaten with riflebutts. Later, the two men were taken to the P-2 offices, expanded beside the FETRACHI offices, where they were told that they would be taken to the "V" ranch in Leon. While they were being detained at P-2, a man dressed in civilian clothing arrived and identified himself as a member of state security. He used foul language on our companeros, insulting them and calling them counterrevolutionaries and murderers of the people. When he protested this, Altamirano was punched in the face by this same man. When our companeros were released, they were threatened by this man, who told them that if they revealed what had happened "they would have to suffer the consequences, because security was going to become radical."

In view of serious incidents such as these, including physical attacks on our members by the so-called "divine" mobs and by the Sandinist police, the invasion of our offices by these police and the fact that a member of state security threatened our companeros with death, the CUS offers the police and state security its most emphatic protest at the abuses suffered by our companeros in Chinandega and declares before the Nicaraguan people that if these completely unjustified organized campaigns against our organization continue, our labor leaders and activists will be subjected to a permanent threat.

HAVANA RADIO REPORTS GUATEMALA COUP D'ETAT

PA240757 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Following the surrender of the head of the Guatemalan regime, Romeo Lucas Garcia, a junta headed by Gen Efrain Rios Montt has taken over the government. Rios Montt was the Christian Democratic presidential candidate in 1974.

A group of officers and civilians today staged a coup d'etat in Guatemala led by Gen Hernan Ovidio Morales, commander in chief of the Guatemalan Air Force. At approximately 1100 Guatemala time, heavily armed troops supported by heavy artillery and armored vehicles surrounded the Presidential Palace and demanded that Lucas Garcia turn over power. Shortly after that, the Guatemalan Congress suspended its sessions and La Aurora airport in Guatemala City was shut down.

Comment on Coup, Leaders

FL241651 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Discussion by international commentators Miguel Roa and Miguel Toirac — live]

[Excerpts] [Toirac] Today we will comment on the coup in Guatemala. I believe this is an important and significant event. A triumvirate has been created and the word is that two more persons will be added. That is what I believe is the present situation. Isn't that right, Roa? The junta is headed by Gen Efrain Rios Montt. We should note that it is significant that Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena has already expressed satisfaction at the assumption of power in Guatemala by Christian Democrat Efrain Rios, who was a candidate for the presidency of Guatemala in 1974. Chavez Mena, a representative of a repressive and genocidal junta, has expressed hope that the new government will lead that country on the path of democracy and freedom.

I believe the situation in Guatemala is still a bit cloudy. So far it has been learned that Anibal Guevara, the president-elect in the 7 March election fraud, is safe, but it is not known where is. What do you say, Roa?

[Roa] I would like to say that some things remain cloudy about the coup, but what is certain is that it is one more reactionary coup in Guatemala. I would like to note that the 7 March elections were a great failure both for the Guatemalan regime and the United States. For the Guatemalan regime, the elections were a failure precisely because of the discrepancies that emerged as a result of the regime's imposing its candidate. But it must also be said that the United States was not able to achieve its intentions. It is well known that the U.S. State Department's candidate was Christian Democrat Maldonado Aguirre.

At this hour, even though we cannot affirm it yet, it would not be surprising if the hand of the U.S. State Department is behind these events. For me there is something very significant, perhaps a mere coincidence, but we cannot discard the possibility they were behind it because of the circumstance I want to point out: The new junta head, General Rios Montt, was the Christian Democratic candidate in 1974 and was defeated. Now we have the coincidence that the candidate who lost the 7 March elections, Maldonado Aguirre, was also a Christian Democratic candidate.

We cannot forget that for a long time the United States has been trying to impose Christian Democracy on the continent as an alternative to the revolution. These facts demonstrate that in the end Christian Democracy in Latin America is part of the oligarchy that represents U.S. interests. In Chile they attempted to test an alternative to the Cuban revolution with Frei, and today they are attempting to test an alternative to the revolutionary movement with Duarte in El Salvador. That is why, I repeat, it would not be surprising if the United States were behind this coup, even though the United States so far has been very cautious in its comments of the events in Guatemala.